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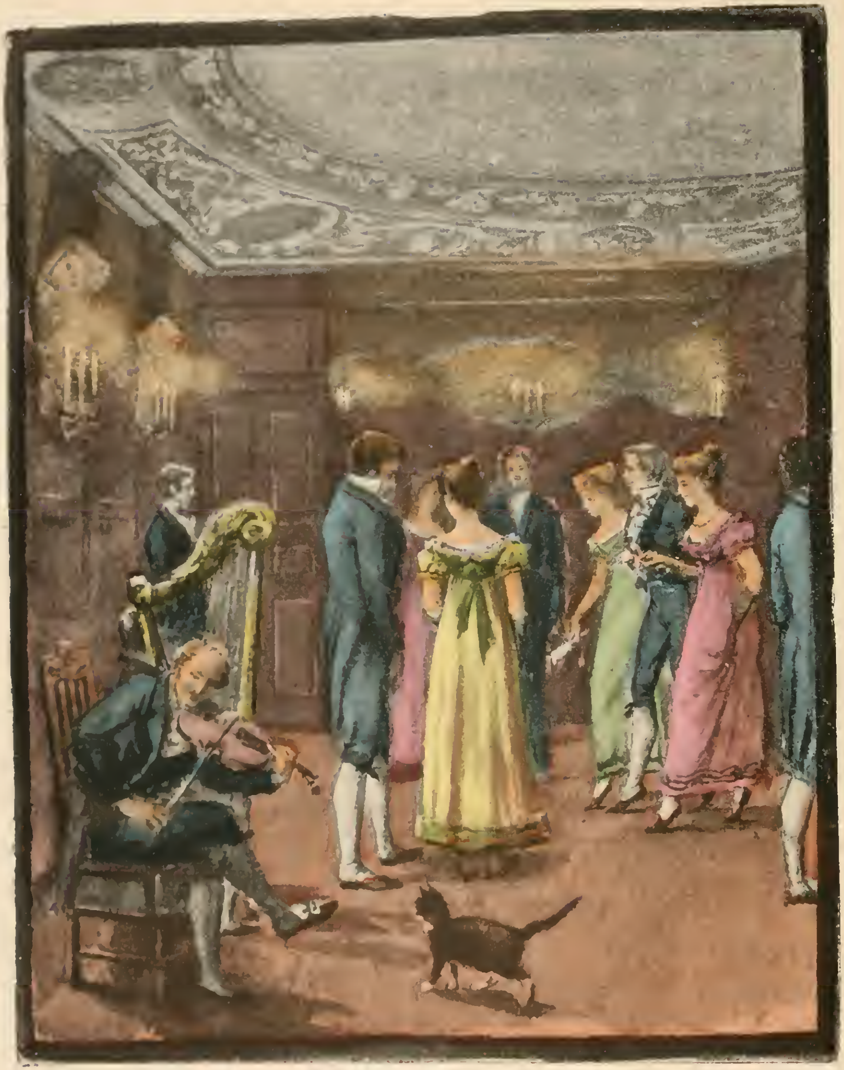
KENSINGTON

Picturesque & Historical

W · E · W. junr.



A DANCE IN KENSINGTON SQUARE, 1815.

KENSINGTON

Picturesque & Historical

BY

W. J. LOFTIE,

B.A., F.S.A.; AUTHOR OF 'A HISTORY OF LONDON,' 'WINDSOR CASTLE,'
'THE AUTHORISED GUIDE TO THE TOWER,'
ETC. ETC.

WITH UPWARDS OF THREE HUNDRED ILLUSTRATIONS
(SOME IN COLOURS)
BY WILLIAM LUKER JUN.
FROM DRAWINGS TAKEN ON THE SPOT.
ENGRAVED BY CHS. GUILLAUME ET CIE, PARIS

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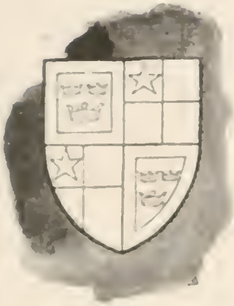
Her Majesty the Queen

accessible collections. But I have endeavoured to pick and choose, first, those things which do not, so far as I know, appear in any former book; secondly, those things of which Faulkner and Lysons were ignorant; and thirdly, those things which bore on the descent of the manorial and other estates. I have endeavoured to avoid mere anecdote, or gossip, except where it threw light on the history, and to make all the names and dates as accurate as possible. The difficulty in this particular has been the greater because so many baseless legends have grown over such subjects as the history of the Veer family, as it is properly called; and the formation of Kensington Gardens under Queen Anne and Queen Caroline, to mention two examples only.



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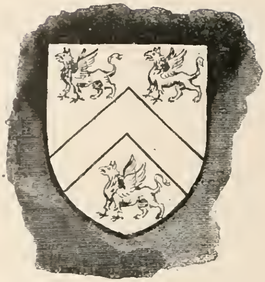


ARMS OF THE FINCH FAMILY.

Besides the authorities above named, I have used Mr. Brown's *Kenna's Kingdom*, Leigh Hunt's *Old Court Suburb*, and Mr. Doyle's *Official Baronage*; Mr. Laurence Hutton's *Literary Landmarks of London*; the Rev. William Pepperell's *Church Index*, of which, so far as I know, only the part relating to Kensington has been published; and the reports of the Vestry, the trustees of the poor, and other local publications, including a

[illegible] STREET, KENSINGTON.

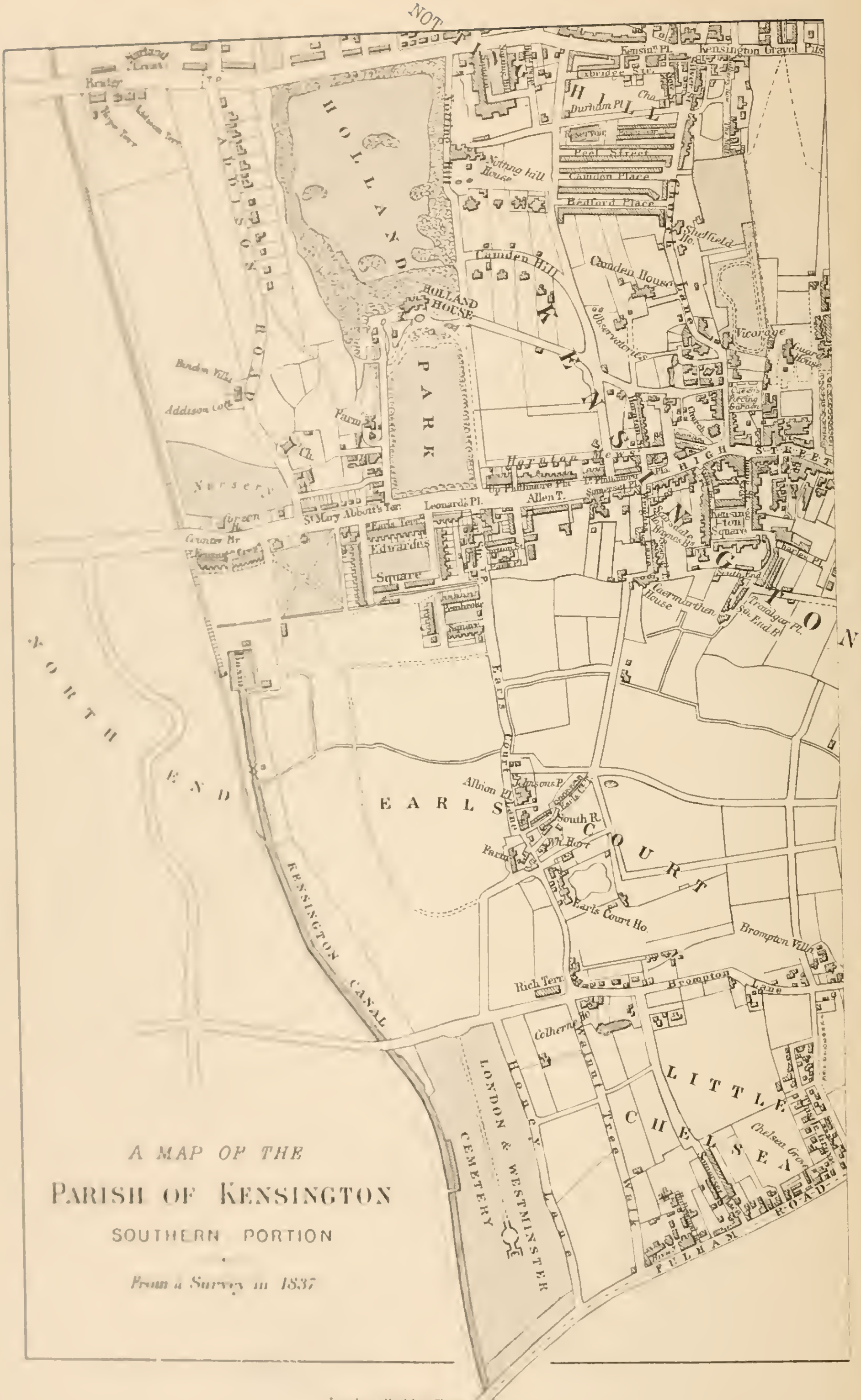
perambulation of the parish, made in 1847. Two interesting but anonymous tracts, one on Kensington Square and the other chiefly on Notting Hill, have also been consulted; and I am indebted to Mr. John Tristram Valentine for his list of birds observed in Kensington Gardens, and other notes. In most places I have acknowledged the sources of information.

I have purposely avoided detailed accounts of the Museums and other institutions of South Kensington, as they are in all London Guide Books; but some critical remarks have been taken from Mr. Moncure Conway's volume on the subject. The late Mr. Croker's *Walk from London to Fulham* is a mine of accurate information, somewhat marred by its editor, and Mr. L'Estrange's *City of Palaces* contains a useful account of Chelsea under a fanciful title. The extensive collections of Mr. M'Henry, relating to Holland House, have afforded me much useful information, for which I beg to thank him.

I must here take the opportunity of thanking the many kind friends who have helped me in my task: particularly Mr. J. J. Stevenson, F.S.A., Mr. Arthur Roberts, Mr. W. L. Rutton, and Mr. R. F. Sketchley; and I am very desirous to acknowledge the kindness of the authorities of Kensington Palace, who have permitted my coadjutor, Mr. Luker, to make drawings of all that seemed likely to prove interesting. Mr. Luker has been generously allowed access to private houses and grounds as well as to studios in the progress of his sketches, and much interest has been shown in the completion of our work.

W. J. LOFTIE.

KENSINGTON, 1888.



NOTTING HILL
Kensingtn. Pl.
Kensington Gravel Pits
Uxbridge St.
Durham Pl.
Reservoir
Peel Street
Camden Place
Bedford Place
Notting hill House
Sheffield Ho.
Camden Hill
Camden House
Observatories
Vicorage
HOLLAND
HOLLAND HOUSE
PARK
Farm
Nursery
Addison Cott.
HORNTON
Up. Phillimore Pl.
Lr. Phillimore Pl.
Somerset Pl.
Allen T.
Leonard's Pl.
St. Mary Abbott's Ter.
Earls Terr.
Edwardes Square
Pembroke Square
HIGH STREET
Church
Kensington Square
Carmarthen House
Trafalgar Pl.
South End
Scarsdale
KENSINGTON
NORTH END
Earls Court Lane
Albion Pl.
Johnsons Pl.
South R.
Wh. Hart
Farm
EARLS COURT
Earls Court Ho.
Brompton Villa
Brompton Lane
Rich Terr.
Coleherne Ho.
Walnut Tree Walk
Honey Lane
LITTLE CHELSEA
Chelsea Grove
FULHAM ROAD
LONDON & WESTMINSTER CEMETERY
KENSINGTON CANAL

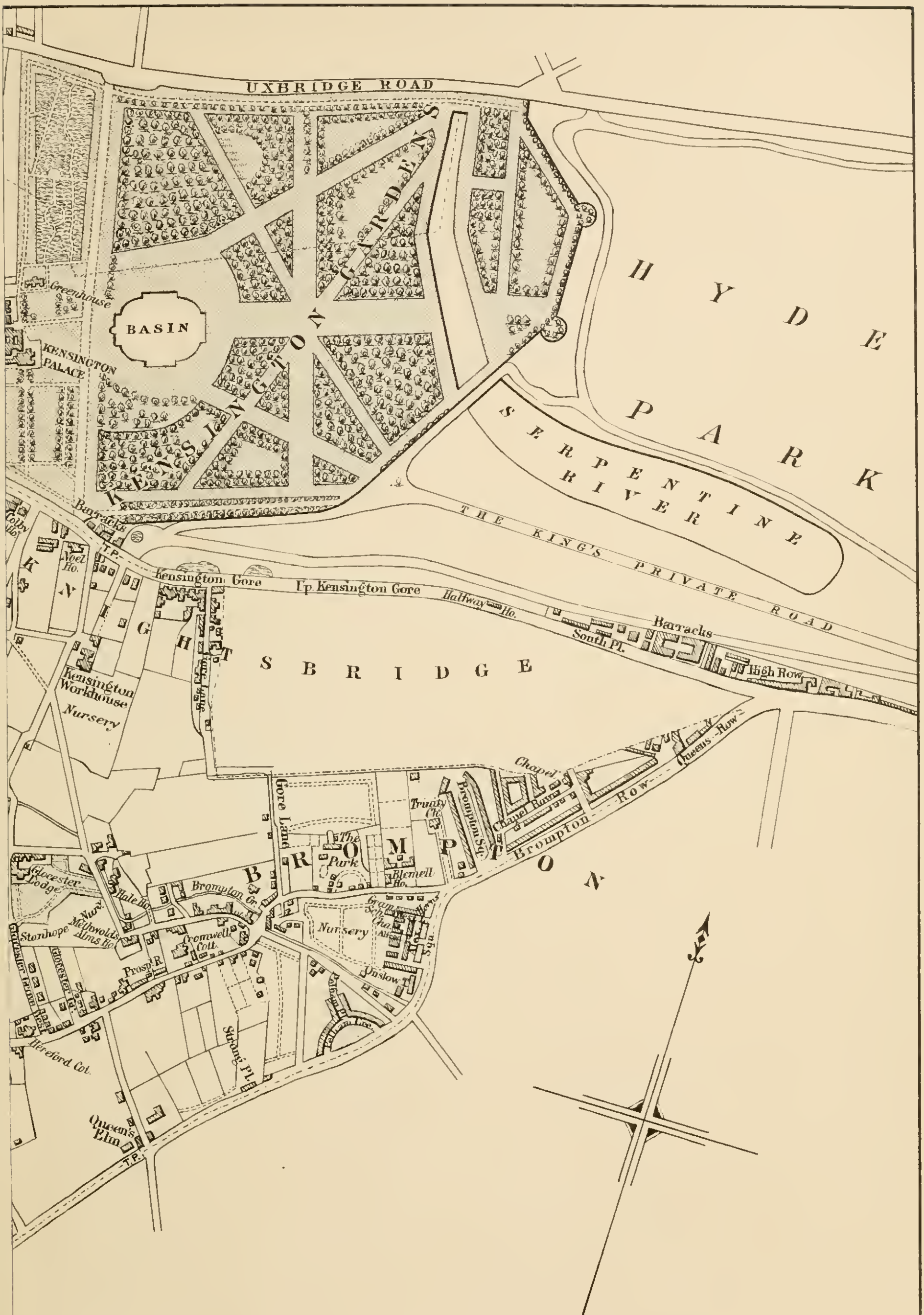
A MAP OF THE

PARISH OF KENSINGTON

SOUTHERN PORTION

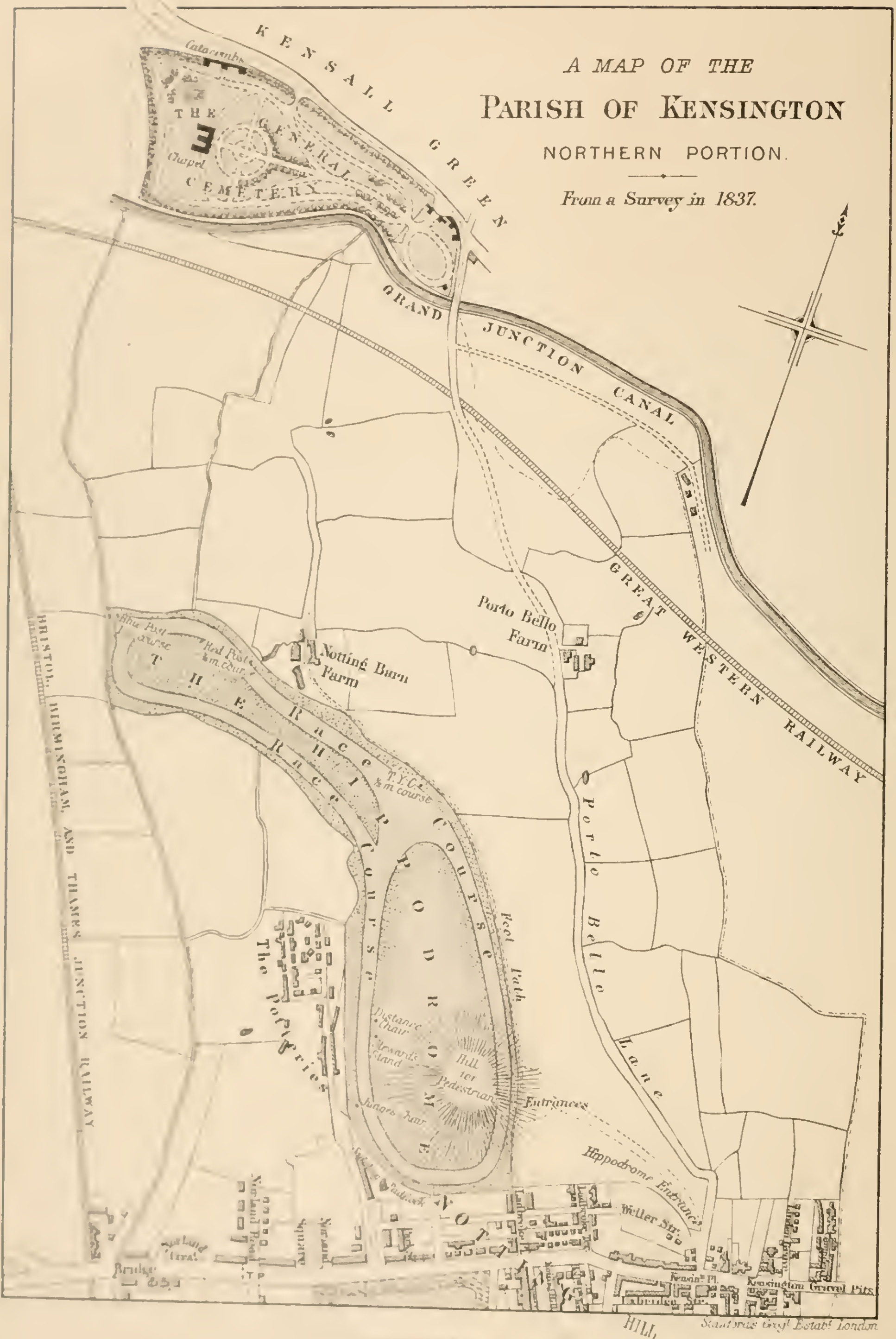
From a Survey in 1837

London: Field & Tuer


UXBRIDGE ROAD
KENSINGTON GARDENS
BASIN
Greenhouse
KENSINGTON PALACE
HYDE PARK
SERPENTINE RIVER
THE KING'S PRIVATE ROAD
Barracks
Colby Ho.
Noel Ho.
T.P.
Kensington Gore
Up Kensington Gore
Halfway Ho.
South Pl.
Barracks
High Row
KNIGHTSBRIDGE
Kensington Workhouse
Nursery
Gore Lane
Chapel
Queens Row
Chapel Row
Brompton Row
Brompton Sq.
Trinity Ch.
The Park
Blemell Ho.
BROMPTON
Glocester Lodge
Hale Ho.
Brompton Gr.
Gram. Sch.
Cha.
Nursery
Stanhope Nurs.
Methwolds Alms Ho.
Cromwell Cott.
Prospt R.
Glocester Grove West
Glocester Gr.
Onslow T.
Pelham Cre.
Hereford Cot.
Strong Pl.
Queen's Elm
T.P.

Stanford's Geogl Estabt, London.

London: Field & Tuer.

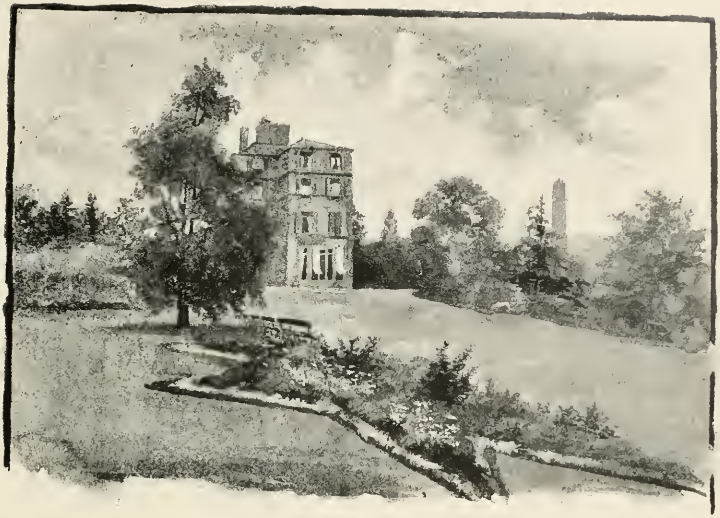


A MAP OF THE
PARISH OF KENSINGTON
NORTHERN PORTION.
From a Survey in 1837.

KENSALL GREEN
Catacombs
THE GENERAL CEMETERY
Chapel
GRAND JUNCTION CANAL
GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY
BRISTOL, BIRMINGHAM, AND THAMES JUNCTION RAILWAY
Porto Bello Farm
Notting Barn Farm
Blue Post course
Red Post ½ m. course
THE RACE COURSE
THE RACE COURSE
T.Y.C. ¾ m. course
HIPPODROME
Foot Path
Distance Chair
Stewards Stand
Hill for Pedestrians
Judges Chair
Entrances
Paddock
Hippodrome Entrance
Porto Bello Lane
The Potteries
Weller St.
Norland Pl.
Norland Sq.
Norland Grot.
Bridge
T.P.
NOTTING HILL
Kensingtn Pl.
Uxbridge St.
Kensington Gravel Pits

Stanfords Geogl Estabt London

London: Field & Tuer.



MORAY LODGE, CAMPDEN HILL.

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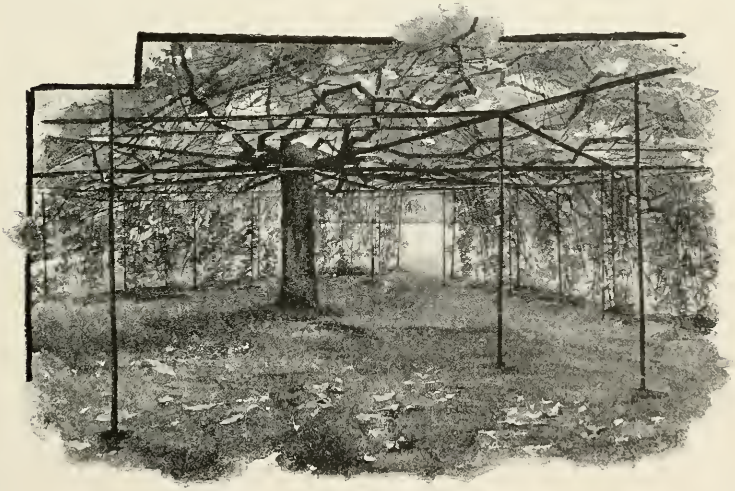

ASH TREE IN THE GROUNDS OF MORAY LODGE.

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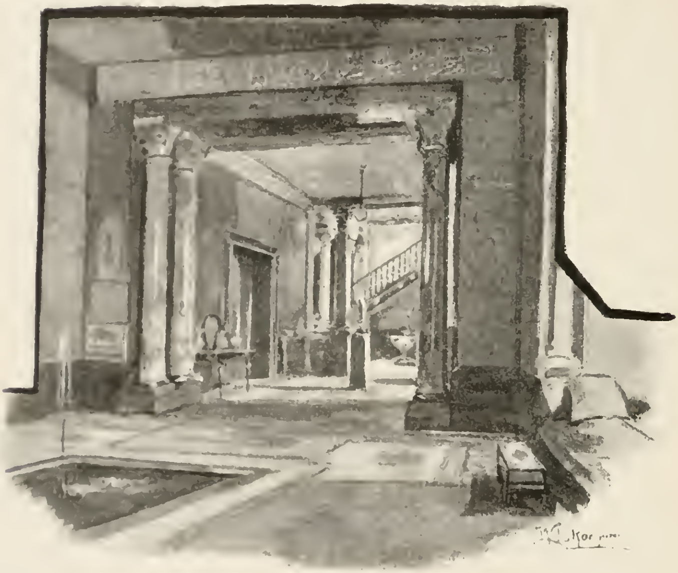

SIR FREDERICK LEIGHTON'S HOUSE—THE VESTIBULE.

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(The spot where Lord Camelford was shot.)

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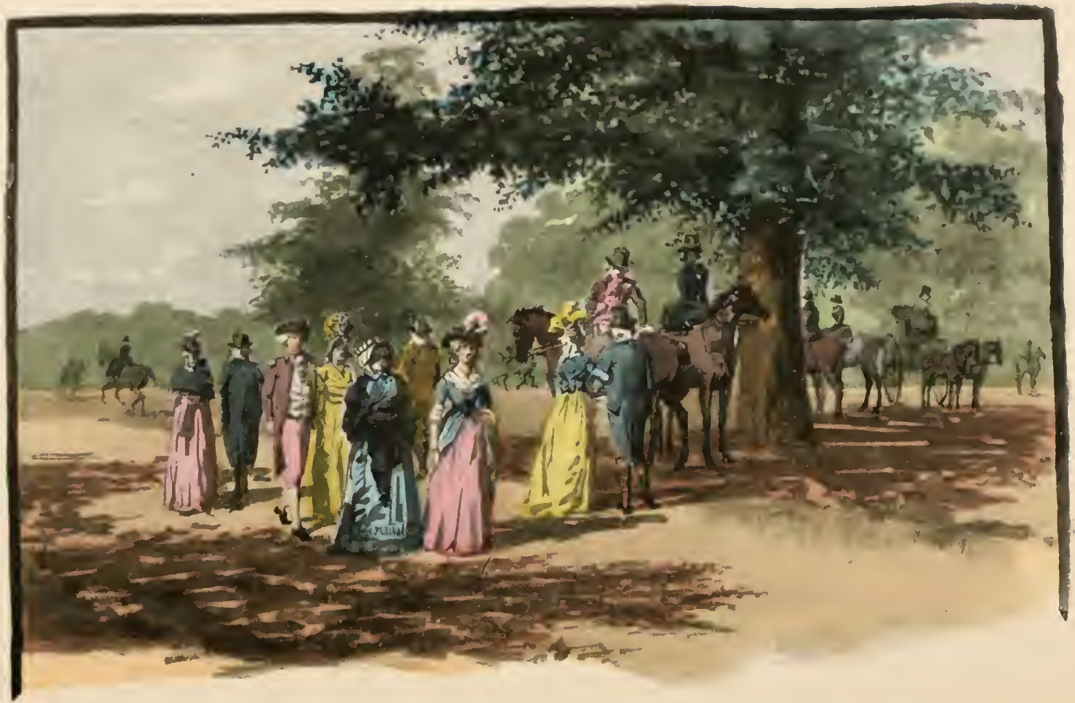

THE ROW, 1793.

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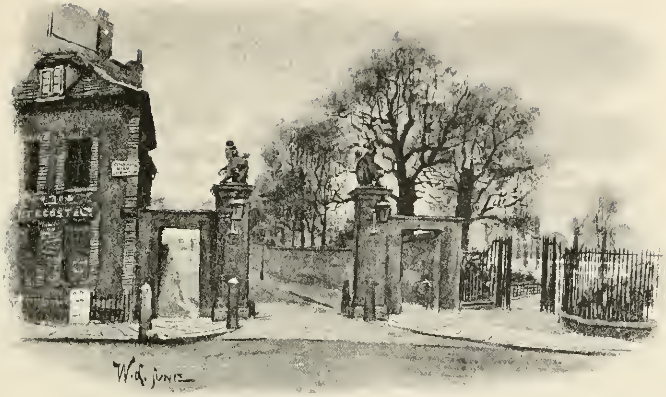
CHAPTER I

THE GEOGRAPHY OF [illegible]

Boundaries—Old Rivers [illegible]

One of the first things that [illegible] to learn is that a boundary [illegible] look at a map of an[illegible] unaccountable variations [illegible] variations are now unaccountable [illegible] they have no meaning. [illegible] because we are ignorant of [illegible] each of them occurs. [illegible] we have reason to believe [illegible] could be found for every deviation. [illegible] of St George Hanover Square [illegible] definition, affords an excellent [illegible] the boundary line is [illegible] be enumerated because [illegible] century but in the [illegible]



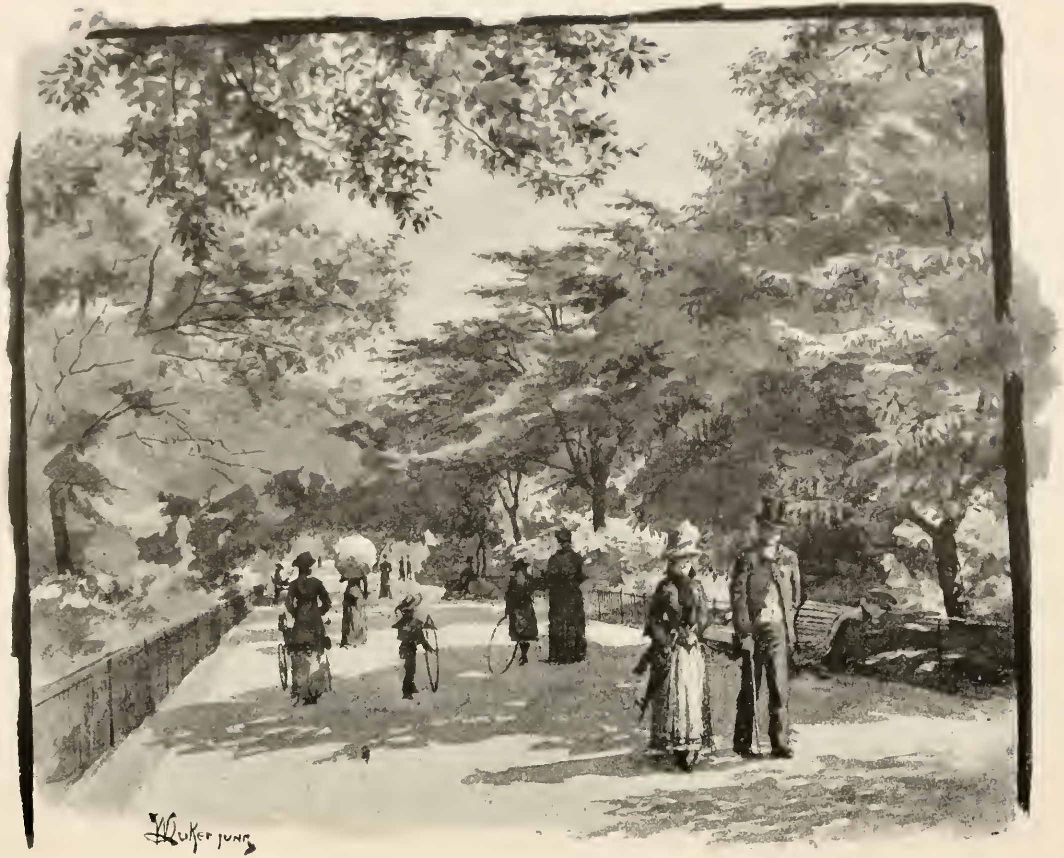
KENSINGTON PALACE GATES.

CHAPTER I

THE GEOGRAPHY OF KENSINGTON

Boundaries.—The Harrow Road—Chelsea detached—St. Margaret, Westminster—Kensington Gore—Knightsbridge—The Fulham Road—Stamford Bridge—The Creek—Caunter's Bridge—Kensington in Ossulston—Chenesitun—Unlucky Guesses—*Kenna's Kingdom*—The Kensings—Brompton—Kensal—Situation—Levels—Scenery—Geology—Zoology.

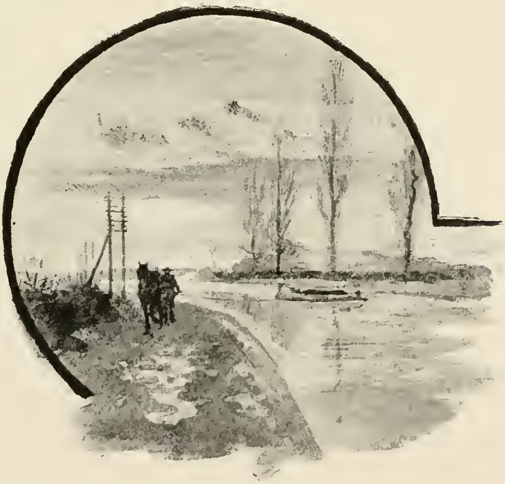
One of the first things that the modern topographer has to learn is that a boundary is not fixed by chance. When we look at a map of our parish, or of any parish, we see many unaccountable variations from a straight line: but though these variations are now unaccountable, it by no means follows that they have no meaning. We cannot account for them simply because we are ignorant of the history of the place at which each of them occurs. Sometimes we can find a cause, and we have reason to believe that did we know more, a cause could be found for every deviation. The outline of the parish of St. George, Hanover Square, a parish of comparatively recent definition, affords an excellent example of the way in which the boundary line is modified by circumstances all of which can be enumerated because they took effect not in the thirteenth century but in the eighteenth. A certain Sir Benjamin


Walker junr

THE FLOWER WALK.

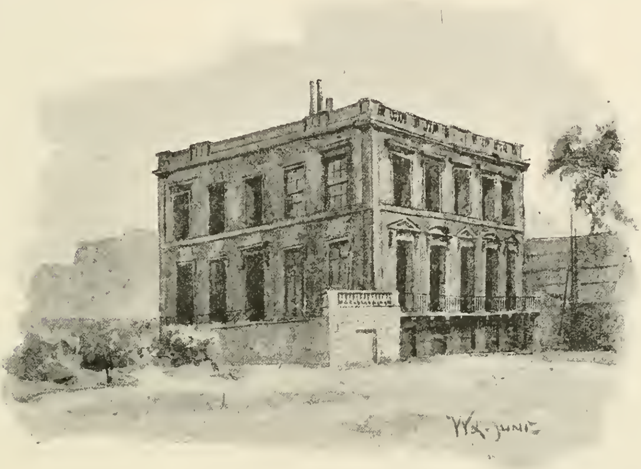
Maddoks, who had a farm adjoining to what is now called Conduit Street, let one portion of it, the northern, on a building lease, and another portion, the southern, to Lord Burlington for the erection of his beautiful house and the formation of his extensive gardens. When the parish of St. George was divided from that of St. James, the northern portion went to the new division, and the southern remained with St. James. We can thus go round the whole parish and give a reason for each peculiarity. With regard to the subject which more immediately concerns us, the outline, namely, of the parish of Kensington, we are by no means on such firm ground, for the simple reason that we do not know for certain when the parish was defined, or what were the forces at work in defining it. By what I have said about St. George's it will be seen that there need be nothing dry in such an investigation, provided we have some few facts to go upon : but mere guessing, especially about topography, is very unprofitable and to my mind very dull work also ; and as there ought to be nothing dull in tracing the boundary of a great historical parish like this, I hope to be able to leave theory altogether aside, and by stating the simple facts to place the reader in a position to judge of such conclusions as I may be able to offer. Where I have no certain information I shall say so plainly, and refrain from guessing or forming unsupported theories.

Let us begin with the northern boundary of Kensington. It runs in what at first sight looks like an irregular zigzag, slanting rather in a southerly direction from a point on the Harrow Road, about 145 yards west of the Cemetery Chapel of Kensal Green, to the


PADDINGTON CANAL.

corner of Sloane Street nearest to Knightsbridge. This line follows the Harrow Road along by the cemetery for little more than half a mile, when it suddenly bends to the southward, crosses the canal and the railway, and makes a circuit of nearly half a mile, avoiding the "hamlet" of Kensal New Town. Then approaching the Westbourne district, it turns to the southward for about a mile until it reaches the corner of Lonsdale Road and Ledbury Road, where once more it resumes its eastward course, but only for a short way, not more than the third of a mile; and, at a point just short of Hereford Road North, it turns south for fully half a mile, until, in Palace Gardens, it meets the boundary of St. Margaret's, Westminster, having previously divided Kensington from Willesden, Chelsea and Paddington.

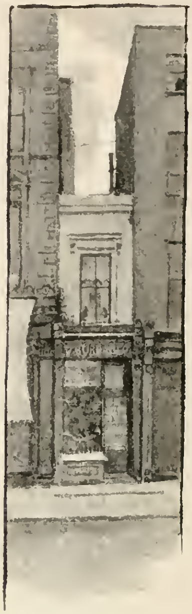
Here it may be well to pause for an instant, and ask how does any part of Chelsea come to be on the northern frontier of Kensington? If we take a cab in Kensington and desire the driver to go to Chelsea, he turns to the south. How, then, is it that we have Willesden and Chelsea jostling each other along the Harrow Road, due north of any part of Kensington? If we look at the map we see that Kensal Green is in Willesden, and adjoins what till lately was a farm named "Chamberlain Wood," a farm which belonged in ancient times, as far back perhaps as 1150, to a canon of St. Paul's, formed his prebendal manor, and was eventually called after him. A circular, or nearly circular, space on the map, south of Chamberlain Wood, is labelled "St. Luke, Chelsea (detached)." This space is bounded on its eastern side by Paddington, and forms an isolated and separate portion of the riverside parish of Chelsea, the nearest part of which is more than two miles away. Although we cannot account for all the deviations of the boundary we have been tracing, as our parish is a very ancient one, and the circumstances of the time when these divisions were made are not only very remote but very obscure, we can yet account very completely for the presence here of the outlying hamlet of Chelsea. It is recited in a charter, now in the British Museum, that a certain man called Thurstan, who was chamberlain, or master of the household, "prefectus palatinus," to Edward the Confessor, gave his manor of Chelsea to the King's great foundation at Westminster: and among the lands mentioned is "sylva proxima ad Kyngesbyrig sita," or "the wood situated near Kingsbury." This wood, part of the great Middlesex forest, was to supply faggots for the abbey fires, and acorns for the abbot's pigs, as in all probability the lower lands of Chelsea, and of Kensington too, were under cultivation by that time.



OLD HOUSE, BAYSWATER ROAD.

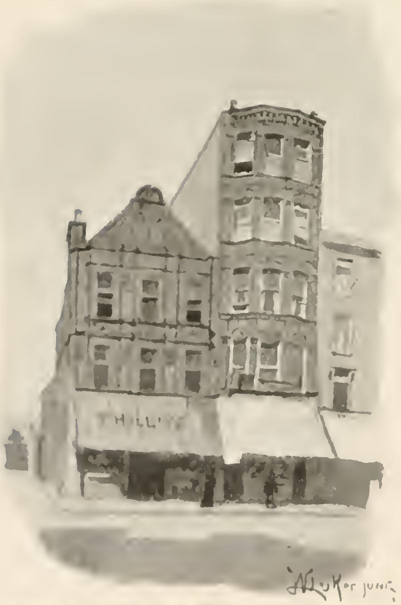
This woodland, thus attached to Chelsea so many centuries ago, is attached to it still: and the northern boundary of Kensington has to "fetch a compass" to avoid it.

It would hardly be worth while to make so long a pause over so small a matter, but for two reasons: some historians of Kensington and Chelsea have made mistakes about the charter, have translated "Kyngesbyrig" by Knightsbridge, and have confused the history of both places; and as a boundary line does not wind about for nothing, I have thought it worth while here, where the cause of a deviation is known, to stop and explain it.



HOUSE ON THE BOUNDARY.

I have not found it possible to account for the course of the boundary between Kensington and Paddington. It seems to be of the most arbitrary character, running as it does, not along brooks or roads, but across gardens, and behind houses, without any special natural feature to guide the eye as to its course. A little house with a shop on the Bayswater Road, facing the gates of Palace Gardens, is actually on the boundary line, and is rated in both parishes. From this point as we enter the gates the houses on our right are in Kensington, and those on our left in Paddington: but this is only for about 150 yards, and only five of the houses are in our parish. Then after we have passed No. 15A the line turns sharply to the westward till it reaches the Mews, and there turns southward again for a long way. Where the westward bend occurs, we have reached the boundary line of St. Margaret's, Westminster; and here again it may be worth while to pause and ask how it comes to pass that a portion of Westminster lies so far from the Abbey yet so near to Kensington that it is actually called Kensington Gardens.


W. Luker junr.

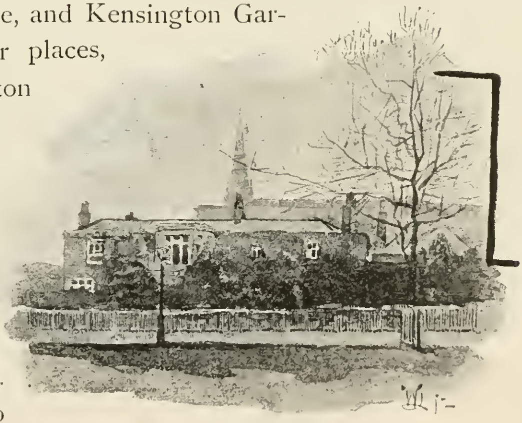
BOUNDARY HOUSE, HIGH STREET, KENSINGTON.

The whole parish of St. Margaret was at one time very much larger than it is at present. It reached from Kensington to the wall of London eastward and comprised besides the modern St. Margaret's and St. John's, Westminster, all that is now known as St. Anne's, Soho; St. Paul's, Covent Garden; St. Martin's in the Fields; St. James's, Piccadilly; and St. George's, Hanover Square. When these great parishes had been taken out of it there remained only that part which lies immediately round the Abbey, and the outlying portion in Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, which was cut off from it by the new parish of St. George's, Hanover Square.

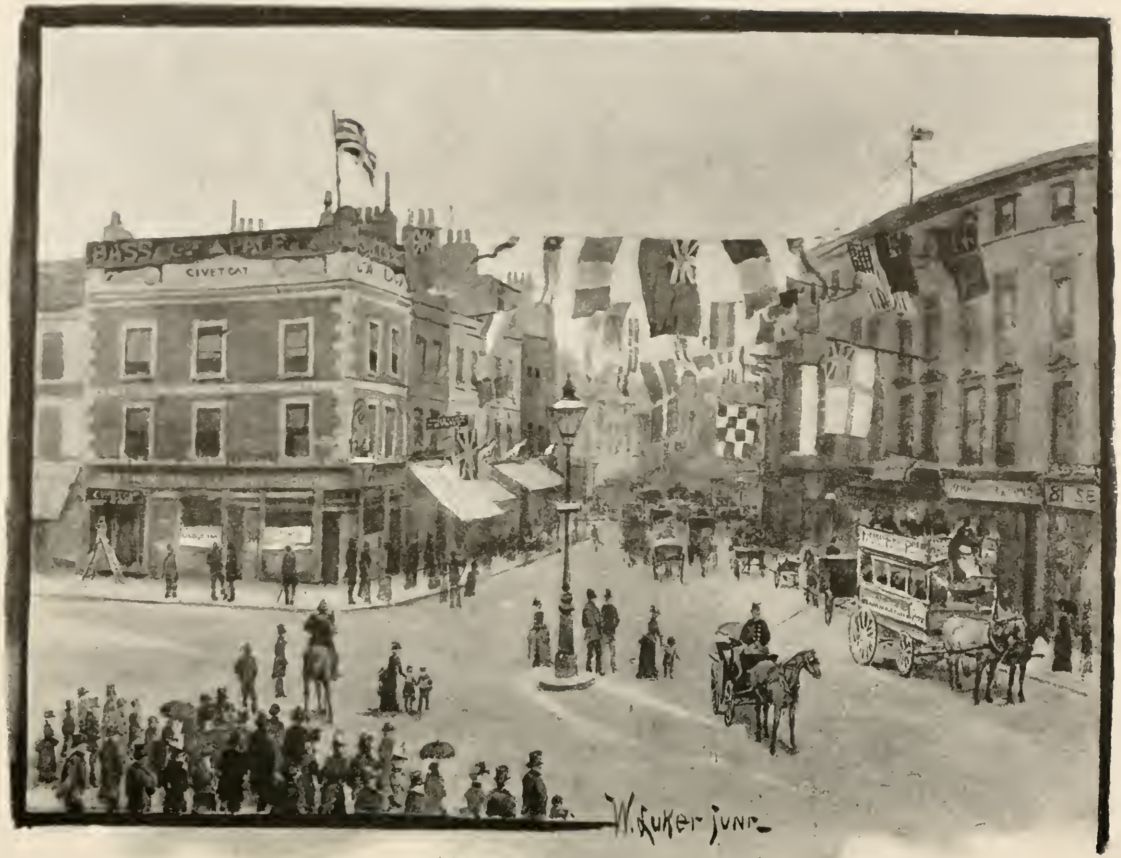
Thus, then, though Westminster is so far from Kensington, the existence of this western limb of the abbot's estate reminds us that before 1724 they were in every respect adjoining parishes.

If we resume our perambulation we find that the boundary line runs nearly straight till it reaches High Street, forty doors west of the southern gateway of Palace Gardens. It does not cross the street, and those twenty houses on the northern side of the way are in Westminster, while all the southern side is in Kensington, and the boundary line follows the road eastward until it reaches No. 17 in "The Gore."

What is "The Gore"? A gore, we know, is a three-cornered patch. The word is in common use among tailors and dressmakers, but when it was first applied to the now celebrated Kensington Gore it had not lost its meaning as a geographical or topographical term. Yet Kensington Gore, like Kensington Palace, and Kensington Gardens, and some other places, such as West Kensington and parts of South Kensington, which bear that coveted name, is not in the parish. The boundary, which has passed along the road so far, now takes to the fields. Turning abruptly to

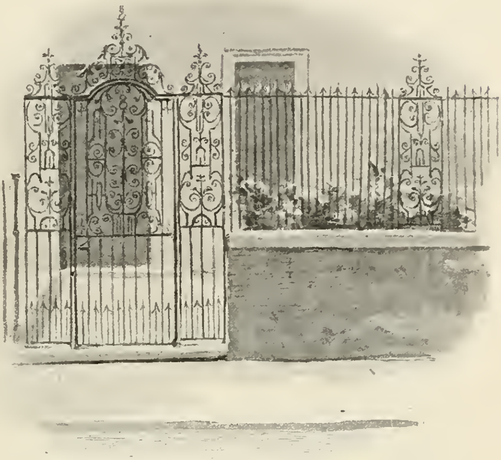


IN PALACE GREEN.


BASS & Co PALE
CIVET CAT
W. Luker junr.

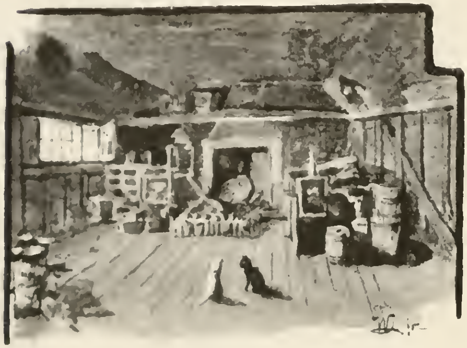
High Street – Jubilee day –

the south, it runs almost straight through the site of the exhibitions of the last few years, till it touches the new Natural History Museum. There resuming its eastward course, it emerges again upon the highway at the corner of Sloane Street and Knightsbridge.


OLD WROUGHT-IRON GATE AND RAILING, KENSINGTON GORE.

Kensington Gore, strictly speaking then, is the triangular space intercepted between the parish boundary and the high road. Before boundaries were very accurately defined, and while this part of Westminster was still, in all probability, an open moorland, a good hunting country, the corner on the southern side of the highway may very well have been part and parcel of the parish of Kensington. But in the reign of Henry I. one of the abbots of Westminster, Herbert, who must have bought the ground for the purpose, for he could not alienate the estates of his Abbey, gave the Gore to a little priory of nuns at Kilburn. Ever since, if not always before, the boundary of Kensington makes a long circuit to avoid the Gore, and does not rejoin the road till it reaches Knightsbridge.

There is great difficulty in accounting for the name of Knightsbridge, and an immense amount of rubbish has been written about it. I have expressed my opinion that it is connected with the manor of Neyt, into which, in fact, if we identify Neyt with Kensington Gardens, the bridge, which here took the high road over the Westbourne, must have led. On the other hand it is called *Cnightebriga*, in Abbot Herbert's charter ; and very little later it was known as "Knyghtsbrigg." Davis, in his pleasant little "Memorials of Knightsbridge," identifies it both with Kingsbridge and with Kingsbury. Faulkner, who should have known better, does the same. But Kingsbury, as we know, is beyond Willesden, and Kingsbridge was a little farther east on the same road as Knightsbridge and crossed the Tyburn, not the Westbourne. It was built to supersede the "Cowford" of Saxon times, and was known as Stonebridge in the seventeenth century, its exact situation being between 105 and 106 Piccadilly, a long way from the nearest part of Kensington.


IN THE "KING OF PRUSSIA," HIGH STREET, KENSINGTON.

The southern boundary of Kensington is nearly a straight line, and presents none of the irregularities which are so puzzling in the northern and eastern sides. Yet the first thousand yards or more, from the corner of Sloane Street to the point at which the Fulham Road is reached at Pelham Crescent, have not been accounted for, by either natural or artificial conditions. A boundary may be formed, like that between Chelsea and St. George's, by a brook; or like that between St. George's and St. James's, by a difference of ownership. But in the oldest maps the boundary between the most eastern parts of Kensington and Chelsea crosses open fields, and is not guided or altered by estates, or brooks, or lanes. The reason for this has yet to be found, and may at some very remote period have been the presence of a watercourse which ran eventually into the Westbourne. The Fulham Road once it is reached forms the boundary, and there is no change or deviation for a mile and a quarter, until, just as it has passed the entrance to the Brompton

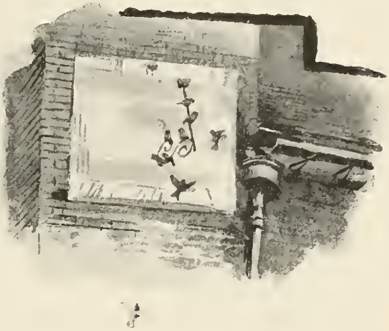
Cemetery, it turns suddenly and sharply in a north-westerly direction. The point of turning is, or was, "Stamford Bridge." It is curious to note in passing that Kensal Green Cemetery forms the north-western corner of the parish and Brompton Cemetery the south-western; so that the illustrious dead buried in Kensington may exceed in number even those buried in Westminster Abbey.

At Stamford Bridge, then, on the Fulham Road, the boundary turns. What does Stamford Bridge cross? At present it crosses a railway, but before the railway was made it crossed a canal, and before the canal was made it crossed a brook. This brook figures but slightly in history, yet, though neglected by the authorities on such subjects, it had a very important bearing on the modern geography of the district through which it flowed. It formed itself into a series of parish boundaries throughout the whole of its course. First, rising beyond Wormwood, properly Wormholt, Scrubs, it divided Kensington from Hammersmith, then from Fulham, then, having passed away from Kensington at Stamford Bridge, it divided Fulham from Chelsea. That it must therefore at some period and in some part of its course have been a stream of importance is evident, yet apparently it bore no special name, but was known simply as the "Creek," and at the place where it crossed the Kensington Road, at Caunter's Bridge, it is called in some maps Caunter's or Counter's Creek. The size of the brook may have had something to do with the name "Stamford," which also occurs as "Stanford," probably its most correct form, and in Faulkner's *History* as "Sandford." If it marks the site of a ford with stepping-stones, where passengers on the high road between London and Fulham had to pass, this name would be ancient and appropriate. Stamford, in that case, would be a mere corruption of Stane-ford, and Sandford would be wholly erroneous.

The Creek, then, which took its rise close to the cemetery of Kensal Green, and of which some short portions looking like common sewers were still visible lately among the rapidly disappearing fields of the northern end of our parish, was crossed by two or three bridges besides that of Stamford. Old Brompton Lane and Richmond Road lead to Lillie Bridge; Kensington High Street leads to "Caunter's" or "Counter's" or "Compton's" Bridge, and there was another crossing near the foot of Notting Hill, close to Shepherd's Bush Green. Of these names it is not possible to say much. They refer to old inhabitants or builders, or the signs of taverns, but when we remember that the Creek itself has no special name of its own, we need not wonder if the names of the bridges over it are a little uncertain.

We have thus gone round the outer edge of our parish and may summarise the result. Kensington is defined by the Harrow Road on the north, by an arbitrary line for which we can in part account on the east, by the Fulham Road on the south, and by an anonymous Creek on the west. These boundaries surround a space of 2245 acres, and to walk round the outer edge of the parish we should have to travel 6 miles all but about 160 yards. From north-west to south-east the parish is 3 miles and 6 furlongs in length. From west to east its greatest width is 1 mile and 7 furlongs, or very nearly 2 miles.

Geographically, Kensington is situated in the hundred of Ossulston and the county of Middlesex, a county which, since the beginning of the twelfth century, has been dependent on the City of London, and has had no separate existence. The hundred of Ossulston has been subdivided over and over again, on account of the growth of the population, and Kensington is sometimes used as the name of the western part of Ossulston. Who Oswulf was who gave his name to the hundred I do not know, nor do I know in what part of it his "ton" stood. Kensington itself is the "ton" or town of the Saxon family or tribe of the Kensingas, a tribe who appear also in other parts of England, and may perhaps be the same as the Kemsingas. It is well to note these derivations in passing, because nothing has given rise to wilder or sillier guessing than these simple names. For instance, Ossulston, we read, "was named after the original proprietor of this part of the county, who was called Ossul." This appears in Faulkner's *History*, and it would have been well if he had stopped there, but he goes on to quote an opinion that it is a corruption of "Ossul's Tuna, or Oldest Town, alluding to London," an incomprehensible suggestion, as it seems to me; and he adds, as a more probable conjecture, "that it derives its name from the old German word *Waassel*, which signifies water, the hundred being surrounded and intersected with rivers and water-courses."

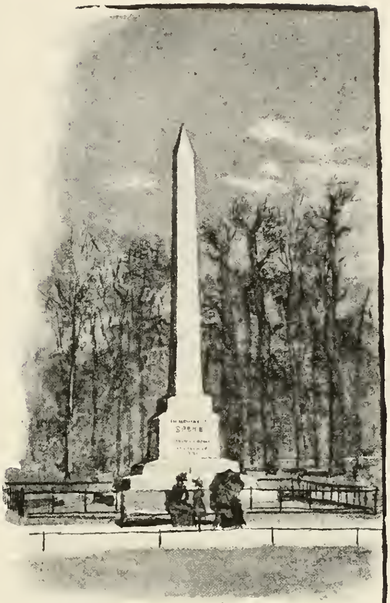


SUN-DIAL ON THE RED LION INN.

So much for Ossulston: Kensington has been the subject of a tissue of still more elaborate theories. I have pointed out its obvious derivation and meaning; but among other guesses we have those of a number of writers who think that because "Kensington" begins with a K it must have something to do with a King. We have two examples of old names not very far from Kensington in which a King does seem to be mentioned, namely, Kennington and Kingsbury, and both those places we know belonged to a King or Kings. But we have no kind of evidence that Kensington belonged to a King or was at any time a royal residence.

Lysons, writing at the end of the last century, says (i. 499):—"In the Domesday survey this place is called Chenesitun; in other ancient records Kenesitune and Kensintune. Chenesi was a proper name; a person of that name held the manor of Huish in Somersetshire, in the reign of Edward the Confessor."

To this Faulkner, who quotes it respectfully, adds, "so that perhaps, it might have been originally called Chenesitun, or the town belonging to Chenesi." Leigh Hunt elaborates this derivation. Having first said "it is commonly derived from the Saxon Kyning's-tun, King's town," he goes on to mention an ancient authority who gives it as "Chensnetun," a spelling I have only seen in *The Old Court Suburb*, and then speculates as follows:—"As the Chenesi family was probably the same as the modern Cheynès or Cheyneys, and Cheyne comes from the old French word *chesne* (oak), and 'chensnet' might have been *chesne nut*, or *chestnut* (oak and chestnut—chastain—having possibly the same root in French, and their timber, of which London was built, possessing a good deal in common), Saxon and Norman antiquaries might be led into much pleasant dispute as to the regal and woodland origin of the word Kensington." There is more to the same effect, and in the end Hunt comes to no definite conclusion, having left the proposition much as he found it, and having made no attempt to account for the existence of a French name in the middle of a Saxon country. We have a still more fantastic derivation to mention: but the inventor of Queen Kenna can hardly have intended to propound it seriously. It is true there are modern historians who believe in King Cole of Colchester and in King Belin of Billingsgate. For their benefit it may be well to say that Queen Kenna of Kensington, who is quite as real a monarch as either of the potentates just mentioned, was celebrated in lines entitled *Kensington Gardens*, by Tickell, a second-rate poet of the last century. Dr. Johnson observed that the fiction was unskilfully compounded of Grecian deities and Gothic fairies. "Neither species," he continues, "of these exploded beings could have done much; and when they are brought together they only make each other contemptible." Unfortunately for modern readers, and for those inquirers who want to know, not what is poetical, but what is true, "these exploded beings" are as common in history as in poetry, and intrude everywhere, at Kensington and Chelsea, as well as on Cornhill or at Ludgate. But Kenna was the daughter of Oberon, and loved Albion, the descendant of Neptune, sovereign of the seas. The tragedy of their lives is fully detailed by Tickell in his poem, and is prettily repeated in modern prose by Mr. Weir Brown in his volume entitled *Kenna's Kingdom*, a series of pleasant



SPEKE'S OBELISK.

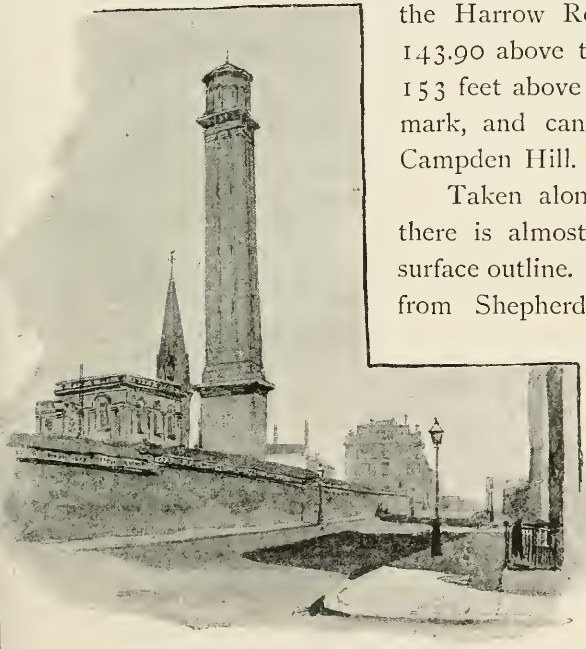
chapters on our suburb. I regret to observe that Mr. Brown inclines to the derivation of "Kensington" from "King's-town," but he may be said to err in good company, for Mr. Walford in his splendid book, *Old and New London*, goes much farther in the same direction, and asserts that "some topographers" derive the name from "Kænnigston, or from the Saxon Kyningstun, a term synonymous with King's End Town." I have read a good many books in which this name has been treated of, but who Mr. Walford's "some topographers" can be I know not, any more than I know from what language Kænnigston comes, and how it can be synonymous with King's End Town. But did not the Emperor Napoleon III., in his *Life of Cæsar*, derive Teddington from Tide-End-Town? And did not Miss Strickland derive Charing Cross from the *chère reine* of Edward I.? And have we not read somewhere that Nightingale Lane is called after the Knightenguild of the city of London?

If, however, we had none of these "exploded beings" and happy guesses to help or warn us, what would be the early history of Kensington, as told in the local names only? I do not think the following summary more than we shall be entitled to take as proven. A Saxon tribe settled in England between the settlements of the East Saxons and the West Saxons, and so acquired the name of the Middlesaxons, and their land became Middlesex. One of the Middlesaxons, or possibly a Danish conqueror, Oswulf by name, acquired a large tract, called from his residence in it Oswulf's Town, or Ossulston. One of the parishes which made up the hundred of Ossulston was called after the settlement of part of a Saxon family named the Kensings, or Kemsings, who built their town somewhere on the hill between the two great western roads, the road to Reading and the road to Uxbridge, both of which may have been in existence at the time. The two ends of the parish, that to the south-east and that to the north-west, were very different in character, and their difference is explained in their names. The wide heathy slope south of the road is Brompton, the town of the broom. The wooded heights to the northward, with their well-watered grassy lawns, are Kensal Green, that is the "green of Kensing's holt"; for though the "ing" is preserved in Kensington, it may well have dropped out of such a word as "Kensing's holt," or "Kensingshaw." To show that this is a probable derivation for Kensal, I have only to point to "Basinghall" and "Bassieshaw Ward," two city local names derived from the "haw" or enclosure of the Basing family. Furthermore, the presence in our parish outline of such deviations as those observed at the detached portion of Chelsea, or at the Gore near Knightsbridge, proves that down at least to the beginning of the twelfth century, parish boundaries were not very strictly fixed: yet that already two great highways, besides those which ran through the parish, existed in Middlesex, one, namely, which came from Harrow to join the Watling Street, now Edgware Road; and another which conveyed the bishop from his palace in London to his manor at Fulham, the land which good St. Erkenwald had presented to the see before the end of the seventh century.

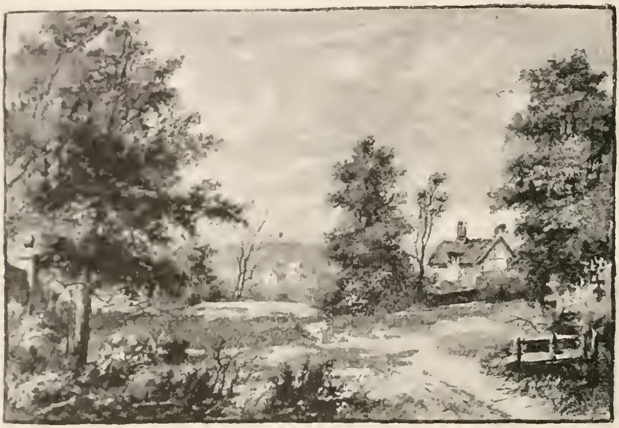
Having traced the boundaries of our parish and accounted for the name of our town, we have next to ask about its natural condition. Does it stand high in the world, or is it a valley? Is it a barren desert or a garden? Is its soil wholesome and unproductive, or rich and unhealthy? What are its highest and lowest levels, what streams and brooks does it possess, what springs and wells? And finally has it any peculiarities from the point of view of the naturalist, the geologist, or the botanist?

To answer all these questions fully a volume at least would be needful. But as much that would have to be told of Kensington would be equally true of any other part of Middlesex, it may be sufficient here only to mention those things which are in any way peculiar or out of the common. For instance as to the levels of the parish, we may compare its configuration to the form of the letter N. Beginning at the lowest point, South Street in the Fulham Road, 16 feet 10 inches above the Ordnance Datum, or mean water line at Liverpool, we rise rapidly to the top of Campden Hill, where we reach 120 feet. Descending northward to the railway near Latimer Road Station, we are only 28 feet above the Ordnance Level. Thence rising once more we arrive at the highest point in the whole parish, namely the extreme north-western corner of the boundary, near Kensal Green Cemetery on the Harrow Road. Here we stand 143.90 above the mean sea level, or 153 feet above the Trinity high-water mark, and can look down even on Campden Hill.

Taken along the principal roads there is almost equal variety in the surface outline. We have to go uphill from Shepherd's Bush, at 26 feet, until at Notting Hill Gate we are at 95 feet. Thence we descend gradually till we are at the boundary at 91 feet. Along the Kensington Road the undulations, although never so


WATERWORKS TOWER.

steep as at Notting Hill, are of considerable variety. At the entrance of Addison Road the level is only from 20 to 22 feet. Thence there is a gradual rise to St. Mary Abbot's Church, which stands on a site, as nearly as may be, 50 feet above the Ordnance Datum. The ground then rises slowly, until at Princes Gate, which, though it is in the old Kensington Gore,

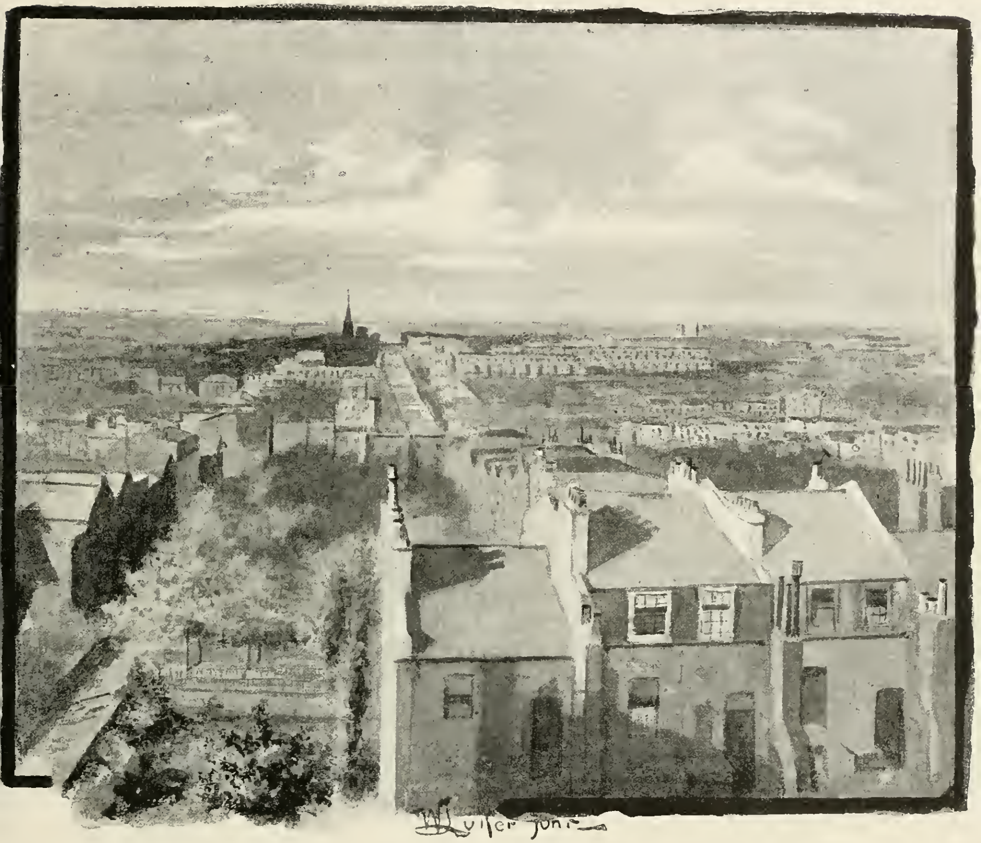


NOTTING HILL IN 1750.

is outside our parish boundary, it has reached 66 feet, the highest level, I believe, met with anywhere on this road, between London and Windsor. Finally, where Kensington, Chelsea, and Westminster meet near Albert Gate, the level is only 35 feet.

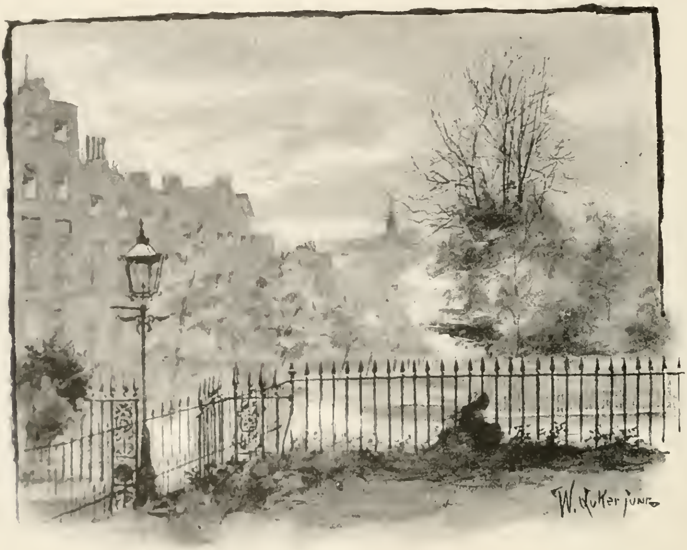
It will thus be seen that, not only are we, on the whole, very high up in the world at Kensington, but our parish affords us every variety of level, and, from the presence on our frontiers of many open spaces, parks, and gardens, we are probably as well off for scenery as any parish in London.

Scenery is a relative thing, and to some people's minds and eyes is not worth looking at, unless there is a background of lofty mountains or the vasty deep. But to me there does not exist in the world any scenery more impressive than the view from the summit of Campden Hill. The sea of houses surging up and over all the hills round about, the innumerable chimneys, the endless streets, stretching to the horizon on all sides, with here and there a dark tree, or the faint glimmer of a green lawn, to remind you that these things exist—such a scene is a marvel on the earth, a wonder unwitnessed elsewhere; for we must remember that though there are great cities in our own and other countries, there is no city now in existence worthy to be even compared with London; and certainly none where standing actually in the outskirts, as on Campden Hill, we still see a complete horizon, all of houses. Besides this stupendous sight, we have



VIEW FROM TOWER CRESSEY.

also picturesque scenery in abundance. Look northward from Notting Hill Square, for example, and watch while sunshine and shadow, or a flickering breeze lifting and dropping the mist, show you a different view every few minutes. You see perhaps a long street, creeping up the opposite hill and dipping out of sight into the valley beyond, while the grey sky appears to touch the further end, and you feel you have exhausted the view in that direction. But, while you are still looking and wondering, it all suddenly fades from your sight, like a castle in a cloud, and far beyond, where it had appeared to end, you see another great city, with its towers and spires, its gables and chimney-tops, glittering for an instant in the fitful sunshine, and then disappearing also as utterly as if it had never existed. All this grey stippling, if I may borrow a technical term from art, this cross hatching of neutral tints, is made up of houses. Nearly every house has its family. There is a different drama of life being played under each roof, a tragedy, perhaps, or a comedy, but full of separate human interest, and to the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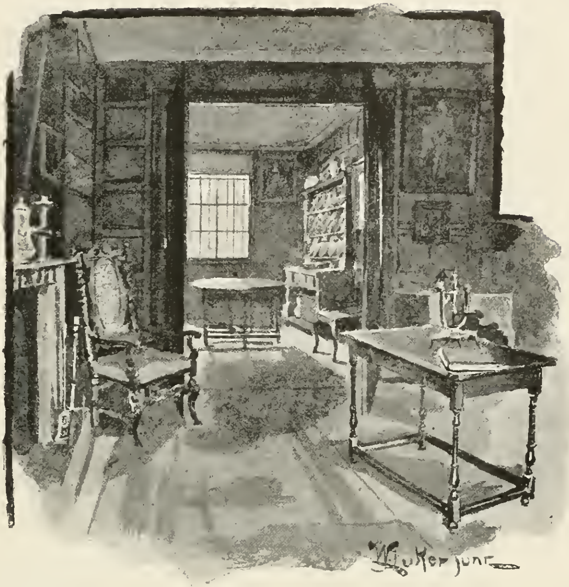
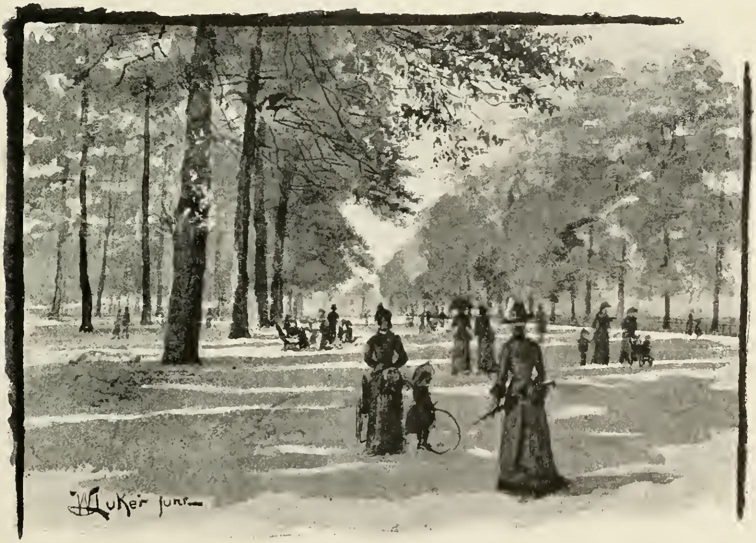
VIEW FROM NOTTING HILL SQUARE.



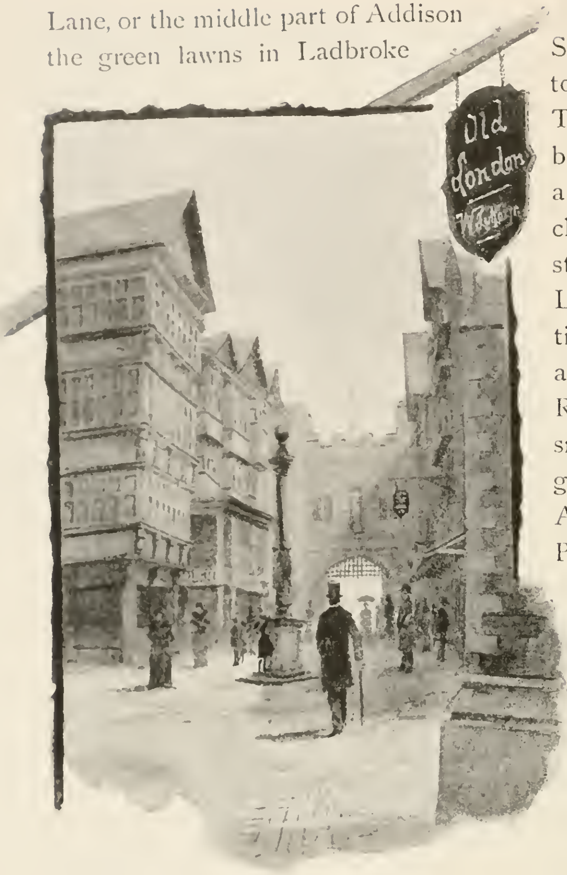
A ROOM IN NOTTING HILL GROVE.

individual actor the most important thing in the world. Yet, whichever way you turn, the houses are like sands on the sea-shore for multitude, and seem to be heaped up in the valleys, and flowing over the highest hills. If you prefer something more pastoral, and wish to rest your eyes, come to the foot of the Broad Walk in Kensington Gardens. There are few, if any, avenues in England finer in its way than this. Perhaps you prefer something on a smaller scale: try Lord Holland's



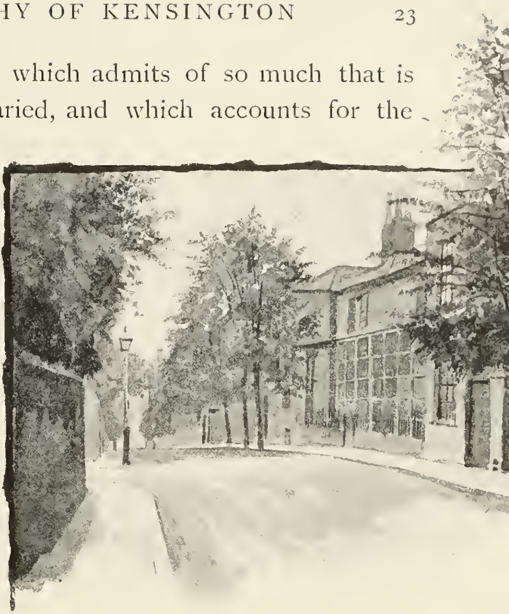
THE BROAD WALK.

Lane, or the middle part of Addison Road, or one of the green lawns in Ladbroke Square, or Kensington Park, as it is called. The old houses must be noticed separately, as well as the churches: but to a stranger coming to London for the first time I think a drive along the Kensington Road from Hammersmith, with the rich green trees along Allen Terrace and Phillimore Place on either hand, and the tall spire of St. Mary's in front, will prove as stately an entrance as there is to any city in the world. When the High Street is passed, the gardens and the park on the left, the villas and mansions on the right, the gorgeous Albert Cross and the vast red circumference of the Albert Hall before him, should impress him with a mixed feeling that here he is entering upon the wealthiest city in the world, and the most magnificent, yet one more remarkable for the size than for the beauty of its public buildings. Kensington, then, as a gate to London, may be reckoned superior to any other entrance, to Edgware Road or Whitechapel, to Waterloo Road or St. George's Fields, nay, even to the grand approach by the river past Greenwich Hospital and the Docks.

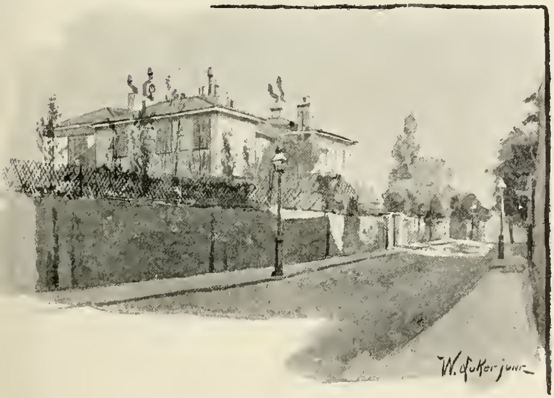


OLD LONDON.

The geological formation which admits of so much that is convenient, beautiful, and varied, and which accounts for the verdure of such parts of our parish as are not built upon, is tolerably homogeneous. There is a predominance of clay at the surface on the upper slopes, and of sand and gravel where the ground is flat; but all Kensington is on the same formation as other parts of the great London district. The sand and gravel are alluvial: the clay lies underneath them, and under it the so-called Woolwich sand. Though there are marks of the glacial and drift periods, and though in the nearly adjacent parish of Ealing traces of prehistoric man have been found, Kensington has not been the site of any great discovery of the kind. There are no barrows even on Campden Hill, and the only things at all out of the common are certain springs and wells, of which one is, or was, in the grounds of Hill Lodge within the parish. There are two in Kensington Gardens. There were others, especially about the northern slope of Campden Hill. Towards the end of the seventeenth century they began to be esteemed as medicinal. They contained Epsom or Glauber

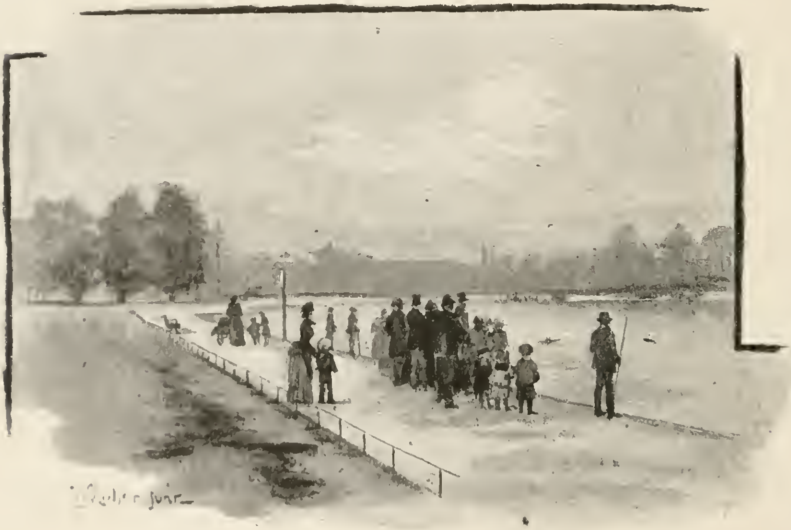


HILL SIDE, NEW ROAD.



HILL LODGE.

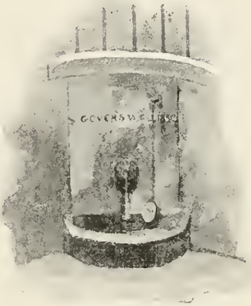
salts, and were, no doubt, very nasty, a first condition till lately with all medicines. Faulkner mentions a spring of this character at Earl's Court, which bore the name of Billingswell, from a former proprietor. There has been some controversy lately as to the wells in Kensington Gardens. One, which is a little way from the Round Pond in Black Pond Wood, was observed to run dry when the pond was drained.



THE ROUND POND.

It is called "St. Govor's Well." The water does not deserve the reputation it has acquired for purity, as it is loaded with organic matter. St. Govor is the patron Saint of the church of Llanover, and Sir Benjamin Hall, who was first Commissioner of Works, when, in 1856, the name was put on the well, was owner of the parish, which is in Monmouthshire. Probably the other dedication to St. Agnes may have some similar origin. St. Agnes' Well is in the furthest part of Kensington Gardens, on what used to be called Buck Barn Hill.

A friend who is a Fellow of the Zoological Society, and who has resided for many years in Kensington, has kindly furnished me with a list of the birds he has at various times observed in Kensington Gardens and other open spaces near our town.



ST. GOVOR'S WELL, KENSINGTON GARDENS.

The Nightingale (*Philomela luscinia*) has been seen and heard in Kensington Gardens within the last five years. It used to be common on Campden Hill and in Holland Park; and the road which leads past Holly Lodge and Argyll House is still locally known as Nightingale Lane.

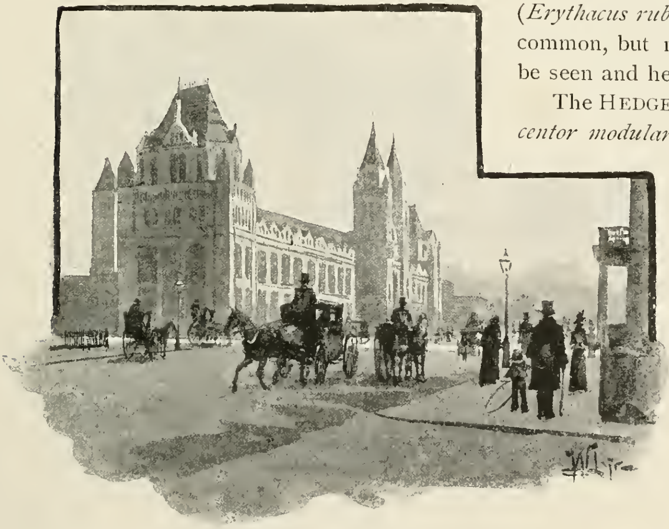
The Redstart (*Phœnicura ruticilla*) was seen in Kensington Gardens, 15th April 1887.

The Wheatear (*Saxicola œnanthe*) is a regular visitor to the London parks in spring and autumn.

The Song Thrush (*Turdus musicus*) is fairly plentiful.

The Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*) may be seen in vast flocks passing over Campden Hill, especially in frosty weather, but has not been noticed as a sojourner for some years past.

The Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) is frequently to be seen in Kensington Gardens and about Holland Park.



NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM.

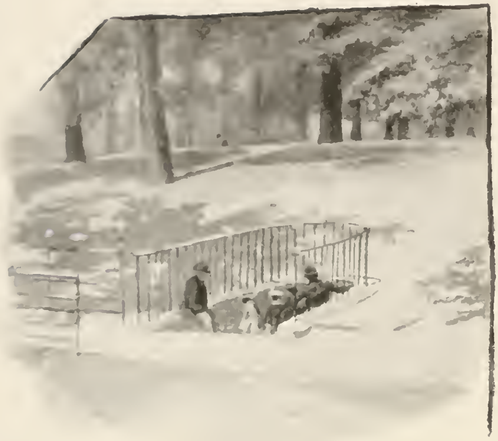
The Robin Redbreast (*Erythacus rubecula*) is not so common, but may sometimes be seen and heard.

The Hedge Sparrow (*Accentor modularius*) still builds in Kensington Gardens.

The Great Titmouse (*Parus major*) is common in the same place, but

The Cole Titmouse (*Parus ater*) is rarer.

The Blue Titmouse (*Parus cœruleus*) is fairly plentiful, and several were lately observed about the grounds of Campden House and in Sheffield Gardens.



ST. GOVOR'S WELL, KENSINGTON GARDENS (SIDE VIEW).

The CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla cœlebs*) was once very common, and a few may still be seen in Kensington Gardens. Last year (1886) a pair were observed in the grounds of Campden House.

The GREENFINCH (*Fringilla chloris*) was very common in Kensington Gardens a few years ago, and may still occasionally be seen there.

The HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*) need hardly be mentioned.

The STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*) is also frequent.

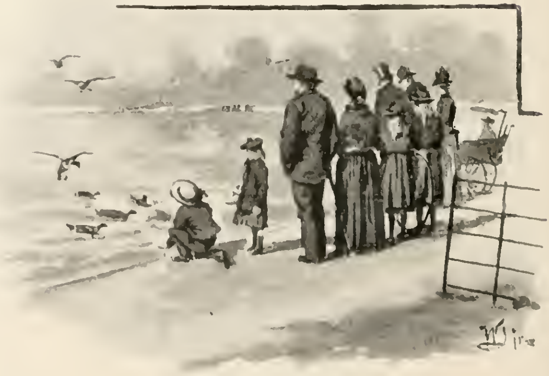
The SKYLARK (*Alauda arvensis*) occasionally visits London during very hard weather. One was seen in Palace Square, Westminster, in December 1886; and others have been reported from Kensington Gardens.

The ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*) was very common a few years ago, and there were at least three rookeries in Kensington Gardens; but at present the rooks only build in Holland Park.

The JACKDAW (*Corvus monedula*) is very common.

The SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*) is seldom or never to be found here except at the time of its migrations. One was seen in Kensington Gardens this spring (14th April 1887).

The HOUSE MARTIN (*Chelidon urbica*) like the foregoing is only to be seen during its migration, when, however, hundreds, nay thousands of both species have been observed hawking flies over the Round Pond and the Serpentine, especially in the spring of 1886, when they were noticed for several days. They arrived and departed together.



FEEDING DUCKS AT THE ROUND POND.

The CUCKOO (*Cuculus canorus*) was once common on Campden Hill, and is still to be found there. It is heard in Holland Park every summer, and occasionally as far east as Notting Hill Square.

The RING DOVE (*Columba palumbus*) may often be seen in the Parks, and there is reason to believe that a pair built their nest and bred in the gardens of Buckingham Palace last year.

The MOOR HEN (*Gallinula chloropus*) may sometimes be seen in the Serpentine in a semi-domesticated state, and breeds in the sedges at the south-eastern end.

The WOODCOCK (*Scolopax rusticola*) is observed almost every winter in Kensington Gardens, of course only resting during its migration.

The SANDPIPER (*Totanus hypoleucus*) was seen near the Serpentine in April 1887.

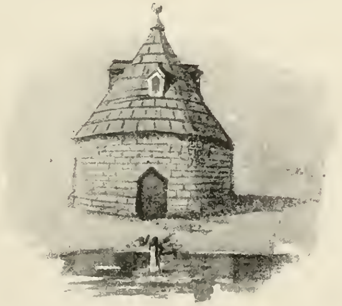
The COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*) has been observed a few years ago hovering about the Round Pond and the Serpentine for nearly a fortnight.

The COMMON GULL (*Larus marinus*) was seen about the same sheets of water in March 1886 for some days, perhaps a week. It appeared after a gale. It was mentioned at the time in the *Field*, and was seen also by my informant himself.

The HERRING GULL (*Larus fuscus*) was seen flying very low over Silver Street, Kensington, in the latter part of August 1886. It was in young plumage, and may have escaped from captivity.

The LITTLE GREBE or DABCHICK (*Podiceps minor*) has been known to make a nest, a shallow floating structure, moored to some aquatic plants in the Round Pond, and was observed in the neighbourhood a few summers ago.

A few other rare and chance winter visitants have been noticed; but I have mentioned chiefly those which may be seen under ordinary circumstances, and which it may be worth while to look out for at the proper seasons.



OLD BAYSWATER CONDUIT.

CHAPTER II

THE VERES AND THE MANOR OF KENSINGTON

The manor of Kensington—Early notices—Kensington as described in the Domesday Survey—Social state—Population—Industry—The Abbot of Abingdon—His manor—The parish of St. Mary "Abbot's"—It becomes a vicarage—Customs of the Abbot's manor—The tenants in 1672 and 1675—Customs of the Earl's manor—The tenants in 1675—Gavelkind—The Court-houses—The family of Veer or Vere—The earldom of Oxford—An unfortunate heiress—"Aubrey the Grymme"—Ham—The Star of Vere—The good earl—The Duke of Ireland—His strange death and burial—Father and son beheaded—The thirteenth earl a prisoner at Ham—Bosworth—Notting Hill sold—The Lady Margaret—"Little John of Camps"—The last of the Veres—Harley, Earl of Oxford and Mortimer—Pedigree of Vere.

We can find no contemporary notices of Kensington before the Norman Conquest. The name does not occur in any of the early charters which have so far been examined; and the first description of the state of the place is in the Domesday Book, where, as usual, there is both an account of it at the date when the return was made, namely in 1086, and, besides, a reference back to the time of Edward the Confessor. From it we learn that before the Conquest, Kensington had belonged to a certain Edwin, described as a "thegn," which would imply that he was in the king's service. But what became of Edwin after Hastings we know not, and twenty years later Kensington is held by "Albericus de Ver," under the great Bishop of Coutances. Before long Aubrey held it directly as a "tenant in chief" under the crown. It is minutely described in the survey. The lands were rated at ten hides, of which only a comparatively small part, or one quarter of each hide, was arable; but a whole hide of this arable land was in demesne. The entry in the record, translated, runs as follows:—

> "*Manor.*—Albericus de Ver holds of the Bishop of Coutances Chenesitun. It was assessed for ten hides. The land is ten carucates. There are four ploughs in the demesne; and the villains have five ploughs which might be increased to six. Twelve villains have each a virgate there, and there are six villains with three virgates. The priest has half a virgate, and there are seven serfs. There is meadow for the teams of two ploughs. There is pasture for the cattle of the vill. Woods for two hundred pigs; and three arpents of vineyard. With all its profits it is worth £10; when received £6; in the time of King Edward £10. Edwin, a thegn of King Edward, held this manor and could sell it."

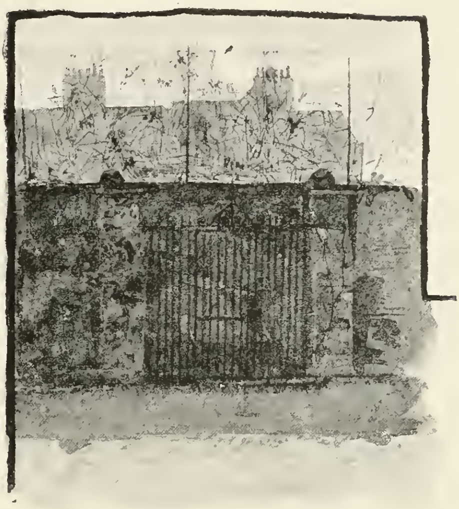
In the original this whole entry occupies just seven lines. It may be worth giving them as they stand, and those who disagree with the above paraphrase can amuse themselves making a better. Contractions are extended:—

(1) Manerium.—Albericus de Ver tenet de episcopo constantiensi Chenesitun.
(2) Pro x hidis se defendebat. Terra est x carucatæ. Ibi in dominio sunt iiij carucæ:
(3) et villani habent v carucas et vj potuerint fieri. Ibi xij villani quisque i virgatam:
(4) et vi villani de iii virgatis. Presbyter dimidiam virgatam, et vii servi. Pratum ii
(5) carucis. Pastura ad pecuniam villæ. Silva cc porcis et iii arpenni
(6) vineæ. In totis valentiis valet x libris. Quando receptum vi libris. Tempore Regis Edwardi
(7) x libris. Hoc Manerium tenuit Eduuinus teignus regis Edwardi et vendere potuit.

This is the transliteration given with the facsimile copy photo-zincographed at Southampton at the Ordnance Survey office (Vacher and Sons), and shows us exactly how the original is worded.

The technical terms are not always explained; but a hide of land in Middlesex usually comprised about 120 acres, and a virgate was the fourth of a hide. A carucate was as much as could be cultivated with one plough, *caruca.* The low Latin *vinea* may mean a fruit-garden as well as a vineyard ; and though there were undoubtedly many vineyards at that time in the neighbourhood of London, it is probable that in some of the most famous, as for instance in that at Ely Place, which is believed to be mentioned by Domesday, by the medieval chroniclers and by Shakespeare, fruits of various kinds—strawberries in particular—are known to have been cultivated. The word *villanus* denotes a villager, a dweller in a vill, a free peasant, or in old English, a churl or *ceorl.* The seven "*servi*" were persons not free, but whether attached to the land, or slaves in the families of the wealthier "villains," we are not told. There were various classes of serfs at the time and later ; but as they never appear again in the annals of Kensington, I need not refer to them at any greater length.

We may from this record deduce many interesting facts as to the condition of our parish eight centuries ago. We see the old lord, Edwin, displaced, and the new lord, Aubrey of Ver, in his place, he himself being still under an over-lord, the Bishop of Coutances. What had become of Edwin during the twenty years that had elapsed since the Conquest? He had held other lands in Middlesex, but except that he had been in the Confessor's household, we know nothing about him or his fate. Returning to the record, and remembering that this is unquestionably the most ancient account of Kensington that has come down to us, we may not only judge of the topographical situation of our parish, but may also learn something as to the number and condition of its inhabitants. The twenty-six men mentioned include the parish priest, or, as we should say, rector, for Kensington was still a rectory. He probably resided near his church, with his wife and family, for as a rule in those days the Middlesex clergy of whom we know anything were married. The priest of Willesden, named German, our next neighbour on the north-west, about a century later, had a family, as we know by a settlement and other deeds in which his children concurred, and which are still extant at St. Paul's. Besides the priest of Kensington, then, and his household, whom we may reckon as five at least,



OLD GATE IN THE TENNIS COURT, CHURCH WALK.

we have eighteen farmers, of the class which the Saxons described as "ceorls." Of these eighteen, six appear to have been comparatively wealthy, as they cultivated three "virgates" or rods of land each. The other twelve had but one each; and the priest half a virgate. We shall be safe if we reckon this part of the population—the rector, namely, and the eighteen families of his parishioners—as comprising, according to the average size of households, about two hundred persons, which, exclusive of the seven slaves, who may have been employed solely on the demesne of the lord of the manor, and who probably each represented some kind of household and family, would be the free population of Kensington at the earliest date of which we have statistics.

This population, then, of two hundred, or at most of two hundred and forty persons, cultivated in all some 1400 acres: for which they paid rents in kind and in service to the lord of the manor. They dwelt, we doubt not, round about the church; and for the pasturage of their cattle had about 500 acres of common land. The green slopes towards Willesden were then almost as thickly covered with woods as they are now with houses, and few families lived far from the protection afforded by neighbourhood: but while the men went forth to follow the plough, to sow their seed, or garner their corn, the women and children drove "the cattle of the town," *pecuniam villæ*, to the pasture—perhaps Brompton was the pasture-land—and their herd of two hundred pigs to pick up beech mast and acorns in the woods to the northward.

When Geoffrey bishop of Coutances died in 1093 Aubrey was still alive. He appears, among the changes and convulsions of William's long reign, and the shorter but even more troublous reign of Rufus, to have obtained some of the lands he had held under the bishop as freeholds, and among them was Kensington. By that time there was hardly an acre so near London which was not held by the church. Fulham, Westminster, Chelsea, Paddington, Tyburn (now St. Marylebone), Bloomsbury, St. Giles', St. Andrew Holborn, and all the parishes northward of the city, with Stepney on the east, belonged to canons, deans, bishops, priors, abbots, prioresses or abbesses. Kensington only was in lay hands. But Geoffrey, the son of Aubrey, who appears to have suffered from ill health from his youth, and who had derived temporary benefit from the treatment of his disease by Faricius the abbot of Abingdon in Oxfordshire, besought his father on his deathbed to allow him to acknowledge the abbot's kindness and skill by a gift of land. The earl's other son, the next heir, consenting, a portion of the great manor of Kensington was cut off and given with the advowson of the church to the abbot of Abingdon. The land amounted, according to the best authorities, to two hides of 120 acres each, and a virgate or quarter hide, in all 270 acres, the size of the hide, always a questionable thing, being fortunately defined in a charter of confirmation subsequently granted.

At that time, and down to the passing of the act known as *Quia Emptores* in 1290, a new manor could easily be created and an old manor cut up. So the abbot's holding became a manor in itself and the earl's holding and his court for his tenants were separated from the abbot's holding and the abbot's court near the church.

Two, among the many consequences of this princely gift, may be specially mentioned here. One was that the parish church, and through it the parish, obtained a distinguishing name. The ring of churches dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the neighbourhood of London became almost complete when St. John's Tyburn was changed at the end of the fourteenth century into St. Mary-le-Bourne. St. Mary's, the parish church of Kensington, became St. Mary "Abbot's," and, with some fluctuations of spelling, continues to bear the name, though the abbots of Abingdon, like the knights in Shirley's ode, have disappeared in dust.

Kensington then is "known in religion," to borrow an ecclesiastical term, as St. Mary Abbot's: and to the same grant by which we obtained this name, another consequence must be ascribed. The gift of the advowson of a parish to an abbey or any other religious house led to the existence among us of "vicars." There were but few vicars, if any, in England until the monasteries had acquired the gifts of the parishes. But a monastery was allowed to become, as it were, the rector of the parish, and a monk in orders, or some other priest, was sent at a moderate salary to do the duties previously discharged by the rector. The abbots and monks absorbed the rectorial tithes, and their nominee was termed the vicar. Vicars still exist, as at Kensington and so many other places, and the rectorial tithes have been but seldom restored to the parishes from which they were thus taken, though, as we shall see in another chapter, the abbots of Abingdon did not long enjoy the right of presentation to the living. One advantage of the system should be noticed since there were so many disadvantages. The tenants of monastic estates were better off than their neighbours, and if any slaves survived on that part of the old manor we may feel sure they were soon emancipated.

The estate given to the abbot of Abingdon was like a wedge driven into the original manor. It stretched from Church Street to Addison Road and divided the southern part of the parish from the northern. Three crofts, however, on the western side of the abbot's manor remained to the Veres, and were afterwards referred to as West Town, becoming a separate manor under that name in the thirteenth century. Lastly, the land to the northward also became a separate manor although it was held by the Veres with the rest of their estates: and having been forfeited in the fifteenth century, was sold and never restored.

We have thus roughly indicated the chief divisions of the original manor and parish. The names given to them are descriptive. To the southward we have Earl's Court. Along the central road and round the church is the abbot's manor. Beyond it is West Town, and to the north is Notting Hill or Notting Barnes, so called, it can hardly be doubted, from the nut trees with which it abounded. The separate descent of each of these estates, the gradual paring away of smaller holdings, the growth of self-government among the tenants of the manors, the division of the great parish into smaller districts, the slow change of farms and woods, of green pastures and orchards, into villas, and of villas into streets—this is the history of Kensington as it is of so many other parishes in Middlesex, Surrey, and Kent. To detail it in full would be impossible even if I could issue ten volumes instead of one: but the best way will be to notice all I can in the early part of the story, and as the population increases and the competition for a place becomes closer, only to direct attention to those things which are of most interest.

The four manors into which the great estate described in Domesday was resolved covered the whole 1911 acres of the parish. When three parts were afterwards united under a single lord some confusion arose: and the later lists of freeholders and tenants seem to divide the parish between what had been the manor of the abbot and what had been the manor of the earl: but even this division does not always hold good, for in 1672 "the Manor of Abbot's Kensington" was described as including all the northern part of the parish. We may remember that the Vere grant was of 270 acres. There remained therefore 1641 acres divided apparently into the manors of Notting Hill, which covered 400 acres; West Town, 470;

and Earl's Court, 771. The difficulty is that West Town was bought by the owner of the abbot's manor and incorporated with it as we shall see in describing Holland House: while to the 270 acres of the abbot were added the Notting Hill manor and all other lands not included in Earl's Court or West Town.

The confusion apparent here never made itself a matter of any importance. While manorial rights and customs were rigidly enforced it happened that a large part of the ancient parish was in the hands of the family of Rich, Earls of Warwick and Holland. Of late years the local government has been carried on not by the stewards and tenants of manors but by elected vestrymen: it would probably puzzle most of us to answer if we were asked in what manor we live, and whether we find its customs irksome or easy.

As Faulkner has printed a copy of the regulations appended to "a Presentment" in 1672 of the tenants of the abbot's manor, we may give them whole and let the reader judge for himself.

The Presentment of the Homage within the Manor of Abbot's Kensington, in the County of Middlesex, at a Court there held the 18th April 1672.

IMPS. We present that the Manor of Abbots Kensington extendeth eastward with the bounds of the Parish of Kensington, upon the lands belonging to the manor of Paddington, and the manor of Westminster; and north upon the lands belonging to the lord of the manor of Wilsdon, and soe westward with the bounds of said parish, joining to the lord of the manor of Fulham, and southward upon the manor of Earl's Court, in Kensington.

Item. We present Robert Earl of Holland Lord of the Manor of Abbots Kensington.

Item. For the Commons we present Notting Hill, the waste by the highways and the Gravel pits.

Item. We present that the ancient customs belonging to the free and copyholders, is that they may cut turfes for their own use within the manor, upon the waste grounds, or dig sand, gravel, clay, loome for their own use, to be used within the same manor at any time.

Item. We present that no copyholder ought to pay for his fine above two years quit rent upon his alienation.

Item. We present that upon the death of any person no heriot is to be paid.

Item. We present that no out-parishioner, holding land in the same manor, can cut turf, dig sand, gravel, clay or loome, or intercommon with cattel with the inhabitants of said manor.

(Signed) John Arnold, Robert Davinport, Allen A. Provost
Fra. Gotobed, John Ilford his † mark.

As it may be interesting to know who were the tenants of the abbey manor a little more than two hundred years ago, I may add the list of freeholders and copyholders:—

Isaac Ashe, C.
Mr. Morgan, C.
Mrs. Ayres, C.
Mr. Proctor, C.
Rich. Peacock, C.
Lord Camden, C.
Two acres and a half converted into a garden and orchard by Sir Walter Cope, now belonging to the Lord Camden, C.
Lord Vis. Camden, F. 80 acres.
Earl of Craven, F. 1 acre.
Lady Jane Sheffield, F. 3 acres.
Sir Heneage Finch, K. and B. F. 10 acres.
The Vicar, F. 13 acres.
John Arnold, F. 140 acres.
Sir Rich. Anderson, F. 400 acres.
Mrs. Martha Copin, F. 200 acres.
Mr. Halsey, F. 18 acres.
Mrs. Marsh, F. 13 acres.
Geo. Underwood, F. 1 acre.
Sir Rob. Booth, F. 4 acres.
Widow Pinm, F. 1 house and 1 acre.

In the Town.

— Boulter, 3 tenements, C.
The Churchwardens, a school by copy for ever, at the rent of 2s. per ann
Mr. Scott, 2 tenements, C.
Eliza. Tucker, 2 tenements, C.
Allen Probatt, 1 tenement, C.
Francis Gotobed, 2 tenements, C.
Mr. Baker, 1 tenement, C.

In the Gravel Pits.

John Ilford, 1 cottage, by lease on the north highway near the Gravel Pits, for 99 years.
Bryan Clarke, 1 plot of ground to build on, do.
Rob. Davenport, 1 ten. ditto 2s. and a couple of capons yearly.
James Jackson, a tenement.
Geo. Feuss, ditto.
Daniel Snooks, ditto.
John Arnold, C. half acre in green lane.
Rob. Davenport, C. 2 tenements.
Tho. Hill, C. 2 ditto.
John Piercevall, C. 1 ditto.
Widow Allen, C. 2 ditto.
Widow Nichols, F. 1 ditto, 3 acres, Kensell Green.
Jno. Butler, 1 ten. Notting Hill.
John Prosser, C. 1 tenement.
Widow Linckhorne, C. 1 ditto.
Rob. Hudson, C. 1 ditto.
Edw. Scriven, C. 1 ditto.

A few years later several of these holdings had increased in size, while others had diminished. Lord Campden's 80 acres had become 90 in 1675. The Lord Keeper had added an acre to his 9. Mrs. Martha Copin has disappeared from the scene, and Mr. Copin has 196 acres of her 200. Mr. John Arnold's "half acre in Green Lane" has become 125 freehold. The Widow Pimm and the Lady Jane Sheffield are not named.

The customs of the tenants on the Earl's Court Manor were different. Faulkner gives us the following document which he dates in 1610, but which he says belongs, as indeed internal evidence would seem to indicate, to the end of the seventeenth century.

The Ancient Customs between the Lord of the Manor of Earl's Court and the Tenants belonging to the same Manor, in manner following, viz.—

IMPRIMIS. Our custom is upon any change or alienation, to give to the lord of the manor, for a fine 10s. for every acre.

Item. We are by our custom free from heriots and mortuaries.

Item. We are free from thirds and dowers, by our custom to our wives.

Item. We may make a lease of our lands for as many years as we think fit, under 100 years, paying unto the lord of the manor, for every year, 4d.

Item. We may sell or let, fall or pull down, and carry away our houses to any other place.

Item. We may fell or cut down our wood or timber to use at our pleasure.

Item. We may dig loame, sand, or gravel in the common, to use within the manor, as often as we need.

Item. We may, upon reasonable business, be absent from the lord's court, being informed, for a day.

Item. We ought to have a lawful pound to impound cattle that do us trespass, the same to be provided by the lord of the manor.

Item. Our custom is that if any tenant die seized, that the youngest is to have the lands, and so to be presented, at the next court holden for the lord of the manor, and the tenants to have their dinner, and a week's warning to appear at the same court.

Item. By our custom we ought, at our courts, to choose constables and headboroughs.

Item. By our custom any tenant may call a court, at his own charge, without suit unto the lord. The stewards and tenants to have their dinner provided, and the steward to be pleased for his pains.

Item. By our custom we make a surrender of all or any part of our copyhold upon a mortgage, the same surrender to be delivered unto the court, or to the steward of the manor within a year and a day.

Item. Our custom is not to pay to the lord of the manor any fine upon any mortgage or conditional surrender.

Item. Our custom is that we may surrender all or any of our copyhold lands to two of the tenants to the use of any other, or to the use of our last wills, the same surrender to be presented at the next court after the decease of him so surrendering.

Item. Our custom is, that if in case there happen any claim or alienation of any copyhold lands, whereupon there is any house or tenement, in such case the lord is to have fine for alienation of such house or tenement, but for the lands only, by the acre, as aforesaid.

Robert Fenn, John Arnold, Tho. Gardiner,
Wm. Arnold, John Dixon, Sam. Turberville.

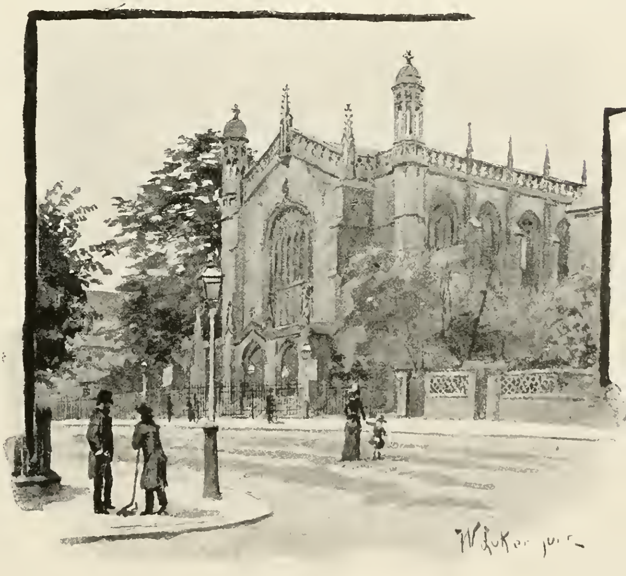
(*An Original.*) The Contents of every Person's Land in the Parish of Kensington and Manor of Earl's Court, whether Freehold or Copyhold, anno 1675.

	Acres.	*Hold.*
The Earl of Warwick and Holland hath .	236	Demesne.
Mr. John Arnold	30	Free.
Mr. Henry Marsh	8	Copy.
Mr. Pettiwell	20	Free.
Mr. Henry Middleton	13	Free.
— Wharton, Esq.	19	Free.
Sir James Smith	12	Free.
Mr. Chase	15	Copy.
Richard Green	3	Copy.
Thomas Bennet	8	Copy.
The Feoffees Mr. Smith's land	66	Free.
Mr. Jones, Stick's Field	10	Free.
Mrs. Dorney	14	Copy.
Mr. Tatam	33	Copy.
Mrs. Spelman	49	Free.
Mr. Gilbert Gynes	7	Free.
Thomas Harden	1	Free.
Mr. Marshall	6	Copy.
James Dison	6	Copy.
Mrs. Methwold	66	
of which 11 acres in the park .		Copy.
5		Copy.

	Acres.	*Hold.*
More, 2 acres, Goodwin's land in the possession of the Widow Brand		Copy.
Thomas Seywell	13	Copy.
Thomas Postan	9	Copy.
Mr. Muschamp	3	Copy.
41 more	41	Free.
Mr. Pratt	41	Free.
The Poor's land	6	Free.
Mr. Colley	4	Free.
Mr. George Underwood	4	Free.
Sir John Thorowgood	14	Free.
Mr. John Green	17	Copy.
More	63	Free.
Freehold in all	618	Free.
Copyhold in all	153	Copy.
	771	

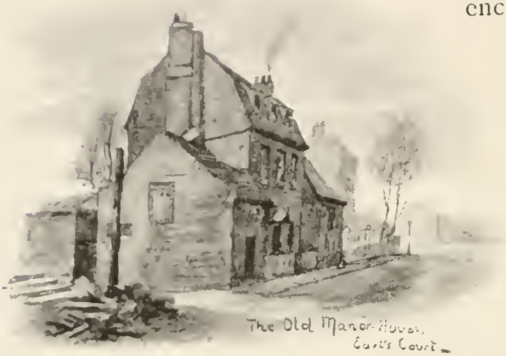
Fines for Copyholds in this Manor, at the will of the Lord.

The most interesting of the rules of the Manor of Earl's Court is that which shows the prevalence of the custom of Gavelkind in Kensington. "Our custom is that if any tenant die seized, that the youngest is to have the lands." The youngest son, daughter, brother, or sister may be meant: but Mr. Elton in his *Origins of English History* has remarked on the custom in Middlesex:—"In the cluster of manors round London," he says (p. 193), "there are several varieties of the custom. Its benefit in Islington and Edmonton was



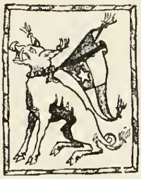
ST. BARNABAS' CHURCH.

confined to the youngest son." He goes on to speak of Ealing, Acton, and Isleworth, and in a footnote mentions Fulham and many other parishes, chiefly in Surrey, but makes no reference to the manor of Earl's Court, Kensington.


The Old Manor-House, Earl's Court.

Few relics remain in Kensington of the time when the government of the parish was carried on by the lord of the manor and his steward. Yet the courts continued to be held at intervals down to a comparatively late period. The tenants of the Abbey Manor and of Notting Hill or Knotting Barns met in a house at the north-eastern corner of Young Street, and those of West Town attended a court held in a house behind St. Barnabas' Church in Addison Road, now included in the grounds of Oak Lodge. The Court House of Earl's Court was originally beyond the railway station in Earl's Court Road; but in 1789 it was deserted for a newer building north of the old site, so that when the railway came it ran between them. The late Lord Kensington, as successor of the old Earls, the Warwicks and the Oxfords, used to sit in the new manor house. It was pulled down in 1875, and strange to say the older house, deserted and neglected but picturesque, survived it till 1878, when it perished also.

The Veres, though they held Kensington for many generations as part of their barony attached to the hereditary office of Lord Great Chamberlain, do not seem to have left much mark on the place. Aubrey Vere was the great champion of the Empress Matilda, and his title is usually reckoned one of the first examples in England of a purely honorary earldom: as previously the earl of a county had public duties to perform in it. Earl Aubrey had not an acre in Oxfordshire, and was much more closely connected with Essex ; but he was granted certain revenues from the county whose name he bore, the charter making express mention of a payment to him of "the third penny of the pleas of the county." Before he had the grant of this title he had been ranked as an earl at first "unattached": and afterwards of Cambridge, so that we have in him one of the earliest examples in England of what is now the rule and not the exception—an earl without a county. It cannot be out of place here, though in truth there is no evidence that any of these Oxfords ever lived at Kensington, to remark upon the great eminence of the name through many centuries of English history, and the popular idea that Vere is almost a synonym for nobility. So far as can be ascertained, the family is now absolutely extinct. Curiously enough Lysons in his chapter on Kensington, informs us without further comment that "the seat of James Vere, Esq.," is between the Gore and Knightsbridge, but in the parish of St. Margaret's, Westminster. In the parish registers of Kensington, the name of Thomas, son of Thomas Vere, occurs among the burials in 1609. There is also a Scottish family of Weir or Vere, sometimes, but almost certainly without good grounds, said to have been descended from the old Oxford house. A late baronet, Sir Vere Hunt, changed his name to De Vere in 1832 on account of a very remote descent from the daughter of a member of the original stock, and his very oddly sounding name may have misled the Poet Laureate into taking what is in reality the least aristocratic form for that of the incarnation of family pride, Lady Clara Vere de Vere. If the historical critic objects that such a name is impossible, the poetical critic will reply that the Vere before the De Vere is like an adjective before a substantive, and is calculated to intensify the meaning as it reduplicates the sound. To which the historian might rejoin that the "De" itself is an anomaly which grew up in the eighteenth century from a mistaken interpreta-


ARMORIAL BEARINGS OF VERE.

tion of the Latin "de" as used in the old charters, added to a French idea that the "de" before a name implied nobility. Some Norman and old English families may have used it throughout the middle ages, but the Veres were not among them, as is attested by the wording of the acts of parliament and some of the charters just referred to, and the fact that it was not prefixed to the names of such worthies as Sir Francis Vere, whose monument in Westminster Abbey is so deservedly admired, or Lord Vere of Tilbury, to say nothing of the Christian name of the baronet above mentioned.

The memory of the Veres is not very distinct in Kensington. Earl's Court may be called from the Earls of Oxford or the Earls of Warwick and Holland. When the riding school behind Craven Place was pulled down and houses were built on the site a few years ago, the new street was named "De Vere Gardens." Aubrey Villas and Aubrey Road may also be modern allusions to the Christian name of the first, the second and the tenth earls of Oxford. It does not appear that any of them were buried in the church, and it is even doubtful if they ever actually resided in the parish.

A long digression on the earldom of Oxford, the family of Vere, and the hereditary office of Lord High Chamberlain of England, might be pardoned here. I have no intention of inflicting such an antiquarian essay on the reader: but it may be worth while to point out that if any inhabitant of Kensington—or, indeed, of any other parish—chooses to investigate the three branches of this intricate but not uninteresting subject, he will earn the gratitude of many historians, genealogists, and heralds, to whom at present the pedigree of the Veres is a mystery, a tangled web of so far unsolved problems.

Was Earl Aubrey, of the time of the Conquest, their ancestor? Is he the "Albericus de Ver" of Domesday, and if not, who is "de Ver"? How is the confusion between the first Earl of Oxford and his grandfather the Albericus of Domesday to be unravelled? If the earldom of Oxford was created by the empress-queen Matilda in 1155, how is it that on the death of Earl John in 1526 the title did not go to his sister? There are many such questions to be answered before we shall see a satisfactory history of the house of Vere, a house which Macaulay described in eloquent if somewhat exaggerated language as "the longest and most illustrious line of nobles that England has seen." According to the same historian, "one chief of the house of De Vere had held high command at Hastings." Unfortunately for this statement Mr. Freeman makes no mention of him in his *History of the Norman Conquest*, but in his fourth volume a name occurs which may have caused the confounding of a very obscure Norman adventurer of the period with the founder of a great family. The earldom of Northumberland was given in 1080 "to a certain Alberic or Aubrey, of whom little is known. He was found unfit for so difficult a post; he either resigned it or was removed from it, and went back into Normandy." This is all Mr. Freeman has to tell us as to Macaulay's hero of Hastings, except that in 1086 when the Domesday Survey was made he was mentioned occasionally as having formerly held certain lands which at the time of the return were his no longer. We may therefore dismiss "Earl Aubrey of Northumberland" from among the personages with whom this history is concerned.

But in the same Domesday Survey mention is made more than once of another Aubrey, or Albericus, who is described as of Ver, or in the mediæval Latin form, "de" Ver. Where is Ver? To this geographical question many answers have been returned by the historians of the great family which was destined to spring from Aubrey, Lord of Kensington, and of many another broad manor in Cambridge, Huntingdon, and Suffolk, and especially in Essex, where the glories of his posterity are still commemorated by Earl's Colne and Castle Hedingham. It is probable that the name is derived from a little town, Ver, on the river Ver, below Coutances, in Normandy. Albericus, as we have seen, held under the bishop of Coutances at first. True, some genealogists have made Veer in Holland the cradle of the race, and other more or less impossible derivations have been proposed. According to the unimpeachable authority of the *Calendarium Genealogicum,* the spelling was almost always Veer, or in Latin "de Veer," and sometimes "de Ver" or "de Vere," this last very seldom and never in English.

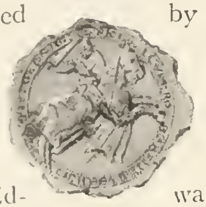
The first of the Vere family then, of whom we know anything, was the same Aubrey who, at his dying son's request, gave St. Mary's Church, and a large slice of his manor of Kensington, to the Abbey of Abingdon. His successor was also Aubrey, and was made Chamberlain to King Henry I., in the place of Robert Malet, who had been killed fighting against Henry at Tenchebrai in 1106. To this second Aubrey, the Chamberlain, succeeded "Earl" Aubrey, who in Mr. Nichol's (*Arch. Journ.* ix. 18) opinion, was called "earl" or "count" because of his marriage with the heiress of the county of Guisnes. After her death in 1144, and during the quarrels between Stephen and Matilda, he was made earl first of Cambridge, and afterwards of Oxford; and as his father, the second Aubrey, had been killed in a riot in the City of London, 15th May 1140, he was already by inheritance lord of the manor of Kensington, and king's Chamberlain. Nothing can better illustrate the permanency of some English institutions than the fact that when you or I go to visit the palace of Westminster, or apply for a ticket to see some great state celebration, the official whom we address is the descendant and heir of Aubrey Vere, the first of the long line of hereditary royal Chamberlains, who was murdered seven centuries and a half ago. And here it may be worth while to remark that while the male line of the family of Vere has long been extinct, that of the unfortunate Robert Malet continues to exist and to flourish, and among the inhabitants of Kensington we might recently have reckoned Sir Alexander, Sir Henry, and Sir Edward Malet, all of them eminent in the service of their queen and country, and all descended from the rival of Aubrey Vere.

There are few sadder episodes in history than the story of the earl's first wife. There was a heartlessness about the treatment of young people in those days, especially of young people who were heirs to a great inheritance, which has often been remarked upon, and which cannot be better illustrated than by the life of Beatrice de Bourbourg, Countess of Guisnes. The Counts of Guisnes were petty sovereigns, and at the time of the wars in England between the Empress Matilda and King Stephen, the old Count Manasses was the last male of his race. His only daughter by his wife Emma, the daughter of William of Arques, lord of Folkestone in England, was called Rosa, but sometimes appears as Sibilla. Manasses himself, her father, is sometimes called John. She married Henry, castellan of Bourbourg, and died in her father's lifetime, leaving an only daughter, the Beatrice mentioned already. This poor child at her grandfather's death in 1137 became his sole heir, and her grandmother over in England, the Countess Emma, was anxious to marry her to "an Englishman," as the Normans resident in England were already beginning to be called. The chamberlain's son, Aubrey, was chosen by the old lady, and the marriage was hastened, we are told, because the young countess was in precarious health, so that in the event of her death her inheritance should not go directly to Arnold of Ghent, the next heir. The marriage must have been a mere formality—the sick child residing with her father and other relatives in Normandy, while the husband, Aubrey, was engaged in fighting for King Stephen, in England. Henry of Bourbourg at length sent over to summon him. The people of Guisnes were up in arms: and Aubrey, who seems above all things to have been a fighting man, went across the Channel to join in the fray. From that time he assumed the title of earl, "comes" or count. But he had not been long in his county before he must have seen the hopelessness of the struggle. His steward, or deputy, Arnold of Ham, or Hammes, had made himself, and his employer through him, most unpopular. Arrayed against him he found the next heir, Arnold of Ghent, and a certain Baldwin, Lord of Ardres. This Baldwin was wounded in a fight, and was nursed by the abbot of "la chapelle Thierry," who seems, while his neighbours were killing each other, to have been busy thinking the matter out. Above all things, he concluded, they must get rid of this terrible Englishman, Aubrey "the Grymme." He succeeded in making an arrangement. By the abbot's help and counsel his patient was put forward: Aubrey from England was persuaded to relinquish Guisnes and his wretched wife. Baldwin, on the divorce being pronounced, was formally married to the countess, and Arnold of Ghent had to stand by and see what course events might take. He had not to wait long. Within a few days after her second marriage the poor girl died, and all the machinations of abbots and counts were wasted. Arnold of Ghent succeeded to Guisnes in peace.

It is interesting to pause for a moment at the name of the other Arnold, Aubrey Vere's bailiff. He is described as of Ham. This was the same Ham which, as a modern fortress, has played a part in French history somewhat like that filled by our own Tower of London. One of Aubrey's descendants was destined to see more of the interior of Arnold's castle than he can have enjoyed, and in the memory of many of us Ham was the prison for six long years of the future Napoleon III. The name occurs also in London topographical history, where we read, rightly or wrongly, that near the Hospital of St. Katharine, a little to the east of the Tower, there was a place known as Hangman's Gains. This mysterious and suggestive name on examination turned out, so it was said, to be a corruption of Hammes and Guisnes, as it marked the settlement of some refugees from those places in France. This is one of those much too plausible derivations which we naturally suspect. Earl Aubrey, as he was henceforth called, "comes Albericus," married again after his divorce from the unhappy heiress of Guisnes, and left a flourishing family, of whom the eldest son, another Aubrey, succeeded him as Earl of Oxford and Chamberlain in 1194. I remarked above on the slight attention paid in those times to the preferences of young people, especially if they chanced to be heirs to a great inheritance. Thus a marriage was arranged for the greatest heiress of her day, Isabel Bolebec, by King Richard I. and his Chamberlain.

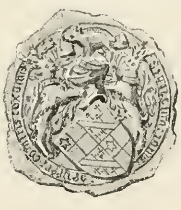
Robert Vere was at this time a younger son, and his father gave the king 500 marks, as the chronicler says, "to make a wife" for him. Eventually Robert became the third earl, and figures among the barons opposed to King John, being one of the twenty-five appointed guardians of the Charter in 1215. He died on the 25th October 1221, and was succeeded in his titles and estates by his son Hugh, fourth Earl of Oxford, who was licensed to go on the Crusade, 12th February 1237. He must be the earl who is said to have seen the Star of Bethlehem in Palestine, the star which ever after appeared on the shield of the Veres. But the tradition runs that it shone upon the standard of the third Aubrey, "who, for the greatness of his stature and sterne look, was named Albry the Grymme," and lighted the Crusaders to victory at Antioch in 1098. It is impossible to reconcile these conflicting traditions. Earl Hugh died on the 18th December 1263, and the customary "inquisition," held after his death, thus describes his manor of Kensington for us:—"Jurors say that there are in this manor, in the king's demesne, seventy acres, at 4d. per acre; thirteen acres of meadow, mowed, at 3s. per acre, and the aftermath is extended to 4s.; eighty-two acres of decayed (debit) pasture extended to 20s., one windmill to 20s.; one hundred acres of wood, of which, every year, may be sold one mark, and the pannage, with the herbage, half a mark; one dove-house, 3s.; the court, with the curtilage and vines, 3s.; one pond, with the ditch, 2s.; rents of free tenants, £4 : 15s.; twenty-one virgates of land there in villenage, rendering 59s. 4½d.; works and customs thereof, £11 : 3 : 4; view of Frank-pledge, 10s.; pleas and perquisites of courts, 5s.; and that the villains may be taxed at the lord's will. The Abbot of Abingdon holds the church to his own use. That Robert Veer is son and next heir of said earl, aged twenty-three years and a half. That said Earl held the manor of the King in capite, and it pertains to the barony, as being Chamberlain."

It does not appear very clearly whether there was a dwelling-house on the earl's manor, for though there are farm buildings, a dove-cote, a fish-pond, a walled garden, and other appurtenances of a manor or a farm, there is no mention of a hall. Perhaps it is the court and curtilage.


SEAL OF EARL ROBERT.

The fifth earl was called after his grandfather Robert, and was knighted by the great Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, 14th May 1264. This honour shows that he was connected with the popular cause against the king, but in 1265 he was taken prisoner with others at Kenilworth by Prince Edward, and deprived of the office of Great Chamberlain, which, however, was eventually restored to his son. Earl Robert had a dispute with the King and the Abbot of Abingdon as to his rights at Kensington. The abbot and the earl both claimed the ordinary privileges of lords of manors except that known as "infangthief," or power of life and death over thieves caught on their lands. Eventually the king acknowledged their rights, but a fresh disagreement broke out between the earl and the abbot. It came to no formal decision, and the earl died in September 1296, when the usual juror's inquisition found that he "was seized in his demesne as of fee, the day on which he died, of certain lands and tenements in the vill of Kensington, that is to say, of one messuage, with a garden and curtilage, which is worth per annum, beyond repair of the buildings, 4s.; and one dove-house, worth per annum, 2s.; twelve score and thirteen acres of arable land, worth by the year, 4d. per acre; sum £4 : 4 : 4; seven score acres of fresh land, worth by the year per acre 1d.; sum 11s. 8d. Ten acres of mowing meadow, worth by the acre 2s. 6d., sum 25s.; twelve acres of pasture, worth by the acre 10d., sum 10s.; rents of assize of free tenants there, 108s. $4\frac{1}{4}$d.; that is to say, at Michaelmas, 59s. $7\frac{3}{4}$d., and at Easter, 48s. $8\frac{1}{2}$d.; one thousand six score and eight customary works, price of every work $\frac{1}{2}$d., sum 47s.; twelve score ploughings of twelve acres, price of each ploughing 3d., sum 63s.; ten half-acres and three-quarters of a half-acre, price of the half-acre 6d., sum 5s. $4\frac{1}{2}$d.; three hundred and fifteen eggs at the term of Easter, price of thirty eggs 1d., sum 10½d.; one windmill worth per annum 13s. 4d. Also the pleas and perquisites of courts are worth by the year 13s. 4d., rents of villains twenty-three cocks, price of each 1d., sum 23d. Robert Veer, Earl of Oxford, held all the aforesaid of the king in capite, by what service they know not. And that Robert Veer, son of the aforesaid Robert, Earl of Oxford, is his next heir, and is of full age. Sum of the whole £19 : 13 : 6¼."

This Robert, the heir, duly succeeded. He earned for himself, in the thirty-five years he held the title and estates, the name of "The Good Earl." From the *Official Baronage* we learn that he was knighted on the 2d September 1296, that he was captain of the fourth division of the army in the invasion of Scotland in 1298, and that he married a daughter of the celebrated Lord Mortimer, the favourite of Queen Isabel. Kensington was among the number of his manors when he died in 1331, and the son of his brother Alphonso succeeded him as seventh earl. This was John Veer, a great fighting man. He was a mere boy at the time of his uncle's death, but served with credit in all the wars of Edward III., beginning with the Scottish expedition of 1333. In 1344 he was captured by the French, and on his release, says Dugdale, "about the feast of the Blessed Virgin, returning out of Brittany, he was by tempest cast upon the coast of Connaught in Ireland, where he and all his company suffered much misery from those barbarous people there, who pillaged them of all they had."



SEAL OF EARL JOHN.

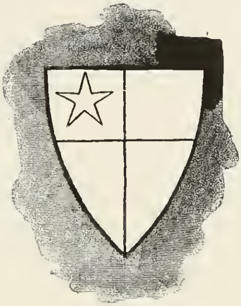
Nevertheless, Earl John returned home in time to take his share in the command of the first division of the English army, in the glories of Crecy and Poictiers. He died at Rheims, it was said of fatigue, in 1360. He had married a widow, Maud Fitz-Payne, who on the death of her brother inherited the barony of Badlesmere. To her he left the manor of Kensington for life, and at her death six years later, it descended to her eldest son, Thomas, eighth Earl of Oxford, Baron of Bolebec and Badlesmere. At his death in September 1371, the manor was described as including a mansion, "worth nothing yearly beyond reprises," that is the expenses, annuities, rent charges, and other deductions with which it was burdened: and we may conclude it was not inhabited by the earls, but was let to a tenant. There was also a dove-house, worth yearly 3s. 4d.; a garden, 12d.; 600 acres of land, at 6d. per acre; 6 acres of meadow, at 2s. per acre: 100 acres of wood, of which 20 acres may be cut at the end of seven years, and then said 20 acres worth 2s. per acre; that the wood was cut before the death of the said Earl. Assize rents of free tenants yearly at Michaelmas and Easter, 60s.; also two cock fowls at Christmas, price 2d. each; view of frank-pledge at the feast of St. Catherine, worth yearly 30s. one year with another; said manor held in capite by knight's-service.

In the next generation the glories of the family culminated and set, for a time at least. The ninth earl was but ten years of age at the time of his father's death. He was one of the special friends and companions of King Richard II., who loaded him with favours and titles. His life belongs to the history of the country, and a mere list of his employments would occupy too much of our space; but I may note that besides the Chamberlain's office, which was specially confirmed to him, he was Commissioner of Appeal, Constable of Queenborough Castle, Lord of Colchester and Oakham, and Chief Justice of Chester and North Wales. In 1385 he was made a Knight of the Garter, and in November of the same year, Marquis of Dublin, the first marquis ever created in England, with a grant of the lordship and demesne of Ireland, to hold for life as amply as the king himself had held them. Eleven months later he exchanged this novel title for that of Duke of Ireland. The ancient arms of Vere were degraded to the second place on his escutcheon, and another coat, "Azure, three crowns or, and a bordure argent," was placed before them. From the terms of the patent it seems that this coat was regarded at the time as the ancient arms of Ireland. But they answer exactly to what are usually regarded by heralds as the arms of Saint Edmund the king and martyr. The duke married the lady Philippa, the king's first cousin, and daughter of Enguerrand de Coucy, the Lord of Coucy and by a curious coincidence of Ham, whom Edward III. had made K.G. and Earl of Bedford, soon after his marriage with Isabel, his second daughter. To this Sire de Coucy Edward had granted the wardship of the young earl, and the marriage, which proved unhappy, was, of course, arranged before the young people were of an age to think or choose for themselves. The greatness of the Duke of Ireland did not last long. He seems to have specially offended the king's uncle, the Duke of Gloucester, by repudiating his wife in favour of a lady named in the scandalous chronicles of the time Lancerona, who is believed to have been a Bohemian in the train of the Queen, Anne of Bohemia. He escaped across the Channel, returned shortly, escaped again, and finally, after some years spent in poverty and distress—"in mentis angustia rerumque penuria"—he was hurt while hunting in the Ardennes by a wild boar, and died at Louvain, shortly afterwards, 22d November 1392, not having more than passed his thirtieth year. The coincidence that a wild boar was the ancient cognisance and later crest of his house, and that his great ancestor, Aubrey the Grymme, was called in Latin "Aper," the Boar, is striking. King Richard, who was powerless to recall him alive, sent orders to Louvain to have the body embalmed and brought to England, where, three years after his death, it was buried at Earl Colne's Priory. "Richard," says Mr. Beltz, "attended by the Dowager Countess of Oxford, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and other prelates, but by few nobles who were not of his household, assisted at the pompous solemnity." The corpse was laid in a coffin of cypress, the face uncovered, and the king is said to have kissed the cold lips of his dead friend, with every sign of sorrow.

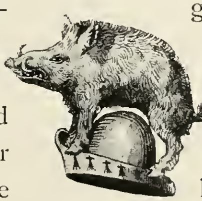
The duke left no children, and his uncle Aubrey was in January 1393 restored by Act of Parliament to the earldom, but with a new remainder to his heirs male. This act, which seems to have created a new title, was subsequently held to govern the succession; and the earldom remained with the heirs male till the death of the last Vere, while the chamberlainship went to co-heiresses long before, namely in 1625. But at the restoration of the earldom to Aubrey, the duke's uncle, this office was held by John Holland, afterwards duke of Exeter, the king's half-brother, and did not return to the Veres till the reign of Henry VII.

This earl, usually reckoned the tenth, although as we have seen the restoration of the title constituted practically a new creation, died in April 1400, leaving a son, Richard, to succeed him. Kensington had been settled for life as dower on the widowed Duchess of Ireland, and produced £33 a year. Earl Richard became a Knight of the Garter in 1415, and filled various offices of trust under Henry IV. and Henry V. He fought at Agincourt as captain of twenty-nine lances and seventy-nine archers; but died little more than a year after, February 1417. Meanwhile the duchess had died 24th September 1411, and Kensington had gone to the king, Henry IV., under a special arrangement made after the duke's attainder. This date, 1411, is worth noting, as from the twelfth year of Henry IV. to the eighth year of Henry V. the manor might correctly be called, as it was afterwards incorrectly, "Kingly Kensington." By a special gift in 1420, it was restored to the earl and continued his until his attainder. He and his eldest son Aubrey espoused the cause of Henry VI., and were greatly trusted by Queen Margaret. We read in the *Paston Letters* (1516) that "Myn Lord Awbry hathe weddit the Duke of Bokyngham dowter, and he was lathe with Master Fastolff, and is gret with the qwene." This was written on the 2d May 1460. But Queen Margaret, though Lord Aubrey was so great with her, could do nothing to protect him or his father after the fatal fields of St. Albans and Bloreheath. Oxford and his eldest son, with several other Lancastrian knights, were sent to the Tower by Edward IV. on the 12th

February 1462, accused of corresponding with the queen. They were tried and condemned immediately before a special commission, and were beheaded on Tower Hill, the son on the 20th and his father on the 26th of the same month, 1462.


ARMS OF THE VERE FAMILY.

From this date no Earl of Oxford held Kensington as it had been held by his predecessors. It was, of course, at first among the estates forfeited, and was for a time owned by the Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III. The heir, John "Veer," after various attempts, joined the army of Warwick, and shared in its overwhelming defeat at Barnet; where, indeed, some mistake as to the livery or devices on his banner led to his being attacked by the right wing of the Lancastrian army, a mistake which contributed largely to the causes of Warwick's defeat. With his two surviving brothers, George and Thomas, he was committed to the Tower, and was attainted, but his life was spared. There is some confusion among the historians as to his intermediate adventures, and a surprise of St. Michael's Mount, which he seems to have effected, does not readily fit into the narrative. In 1474, however, we find him a prisoner, and according to all accounts the place of his confinement was the same castle of Ham, with which, as we have seen, the story of the Veres had already twice connected them. Here he languished during the remainder of the reign of Edward IV. and during the usurpation of Richard III., to whom in particular Oxford must have felt a special enmity as the holder of his estates, and the tyrant who, while he kept the husband in prison, suffered the unhappy wife and the mother to starve. The two countesses, the elder one a Howard, the younger a Nevil, were reduced to absolute want, while, to use the words of the subsequent act by which the estates were


CREST OF THE VERE FAMILY.

restored, Richard after his accession retained them, "of his inordynate covetyse and ungodly dispocion."

When Richmond made his descent on the English coast before Bosworth, he had Oxford with him, Sir John Blount, the governor of Ham, having so far committed himself to the undertaking that he released the earl. After the victory he was restored to all the possessions of his family, and was made Constable of the Tower of London. His connection with Kensington was however slight. The debts and charges which had to be paid out of the estates were enormous. Kensington, that is the manor of Earl's Court, was settled as dowry for the two countesses, and we now find Notting Barns, or Knotting Barns, a wholly separate holding. In 1488 Earl John sold it. If the story of the fine imposed upon him by Henry VII. for putting his retainers in livery to receive the king at Castle Hedingham be true, he must have sadly wanted money; and Sir Reginald Bray, his old companion in arms, by whose side he had fought at Bosworth, came to his help by finding him a purchaser. This was no less a personage than the king's mother, the Countess of Richmond, the "Lady Margaret" of so many ecclesiastical endowments. She left the estate by her will to the Abbot of Westminster, the proceeds to be spent in masses, and in payments of the professors on her foundations at Oxford and Cambridge. Thus another great suburban manor went into the hands of the church. It consisted, we are told, of "a messuage, 400 acres of land, 5 acres of meadow, and 140 acres of wood,"—this last item being, no doubt, the Kensal Wood which I have already endeavoured to identify.

There was now nothing left to Earl John in Kensington except the nominal rent of West Town. He had other estates, however, and as Constable of the Tower, and "Keeper of the King's Lions" there, he had a residence nearer London and more convenient than Kensington could have been. He left no children by either of his wives. The first had been a sister of the kingmaker, and during the earl's long detention at Ham had supported herself by needlework. She died in 1507, and her husband married, secondly, the widowed Viscountess Beaumont, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Richard Scrope. He died 10th March 1513, and was succeeded by his nephew "Little John of Camps," as he was called from his low stature and his residence at Castle Camps in Cambridgeshire. He was the last who had even a nominal connection with Kensington. His enjoyment of rank and honour was short. He succeeded in 1513, was admitted Lord Chamberlain, sat as a peer on the trial of the unfortunate Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, and married the Lady Anne Howard, daughter of Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, and aunt of Queen Anne Boleyn. He died still young, namely in 1526, and his honours and great estates went to collateral heirs. The next earl was his cousin John. The manor of Kensington was settled by Act of Parliament, first on the two widowed countesses who still survived, and then on the three sisters and co-heiresses of John, the fourteenth earl.

We may now bid good-bye to the Veres, so far as they were concerned in the history of Kensington. They survived for nearly two centuries in Essex, and in the great Sir Francis Vere and Lord Vere of Tilbury showed that some of the qualities of the Grymme Aubrey and the heroes of Cressy, Agincourt, and Bosworth still lingered among them. At length, on the 12th March 1703, the male line of the family terminated with the life of the sixth Aubrey, who had succeeded as twentieth Earl of Oxford in 1632. His only surviving child, Lady Diana, married one of the sons of Charles II. by Nell Gwynn, and the last glories of the white star of Vere were extinguished. Many attempts were made to discover a male heir of the name; and in the reign of George III. a china-dealer on Tower Hill is said to have satisfied the law-officers of the Crown as to his descent; but the death of his only son deterred him from any prosecution of his claim. When, some seven years after the death of the twentieth earl, Sir Robert Harley was made Earl of Oxford, the earldom of Mortimer was added to his titles;

lest an heir should yet be found. In 1853, these titles also became extinct.

For the following pedigree I am indebted to Mr. William Loftie Rutton :—

PEDIGREE OF THE FAMILY OF VERE, LORDS OF THE MANOR OF KENSINGTON, 1086–1526.

Alberic, or **Aubrey,** of Ver, near Coutances in Normandy. "Albericus de Ver" in Domesday Book, holding lands in cos. Middlesex, Cambridge, Huntingdon, Essex, and Suffolk ; of these were Cheniston, now **Kensington** in co. Middlesex, Hedingham and Colne in Essex. He eventually retired to Colne Priory, which he had founded, and died in 1088.
= Beatrix, said to have been sister (? half-sister) of K. Wm. the Conqueror.—*Harl. MSS.*, 245, 1052, 1155 *bis.*

Aubrey Vere, in 1106, by K. Hen. I. made **Gt. Chamberlain of England,** the office being granted to him and his heirs. Slain in a tumult, 1140. = Adeliza, dau. of Earl Gilbert of Clare.

Geoffrey, ob. v. p., bu. in Abingdon Abbey, to which, for his soul's health, his father granted part of the Kensington estate.

Robert, the King's Constable.

Roger.

William.

Eufemia, dau. of William Cantelupe. d. s. p. = 2 **Aubrey Vere,** *The Grim*, Count of Guisnes, *jure uxoris*, Gt. Chamberlain, **1st Earl of Oxford** 1155, d. 1194, bu. at Priory of Colne. 1 = Beatrix, Countess of Guisnes, dau. of Henry, castellan of Bourbourg, grd. dau. and hr. of Manasses, Cnt. of Guisnes, divorced and re-married to Baldwin, Lord of Ardres, 1144. She died same year.

Lucia, dau. and hr. of (?) William de Abrincis. = 3 **Aubrey Vere**

Geoffrey, Sheriff of Salop, 1165 = Isb. Say.

William, Bishop of Hereford, 1186-1199.

Gilbert, Lord of Rainham, Essex.

Juliana = Hugh Bigod, Earl of Norfolk.

Adeliza = Henry Essex.

Aubrey Vere, 2d Earl of Oxford, Gt. Chamberlain, Sheriff of Essex & Hertford 1208-13. = Adeliza, dau. of Roger Bigod, E. of Norf. He d. 1214 s. p. legit., bur. at Colne Priory.

Robert Vere, 3d Earl of Oxford, Gt. Chamberlain, one of the Barons guardians of Magna Charta, d. 1221, bu. at Hatfield-Broad-Oak, Essex, where is his monument. = Isabel, dau. and hr. of Walter, Baron of Bolebec, Co. Buckingham. She died 1245, and was buried in the church of the Friars Minors at Oxford.

Sarah. = Richard Engaine, of Blatherwyke, Co. Northamp.

Hugh Vere, 4th Earl of Oxford, Great Chamberlain, d. 1263, bur. at Colne. = Hawise, dau. of Saier of Quincey, Earl of Winchester.

Sir Henry Vere, Kt., of Gt. Addington, Co. Northamp. =

a

Robert Vere, 5th Earl of Oxford, Great Chamberlain. He supported Montfort, E. of Leicester, and commanded in army of K. Edw. I. for subjugation of Wales, d. 1296, bu. at Colne Priory. = Alice, dau. and coh. of Gilbert Baron Samford. She d. 1317, and was buried at the Priory of Colne.

Aubrey.

Richard.

Maud.

Margaret. = Hugh Cressy.

Isabel. = John Courtenay.

Lora = Reginald of Argentine, d. 1307.

Robert Vere, 6th Earl of Oxford, Gt. Chamberlain. Held command in army of K. Edw. I. in Scotland, d. 1331, s. p. = Margaret, dau. of Roger Mortimer, Earl of March.

Alphonso Vere, d. 1327, bu. at St. Albans. = Joan, dau. of Sir Richd. Foliot.

Hugh, Baron Vere, of Swanscombe, Co. Kent. d. s. p. = Dyonysia, dau. and hr. of Wm. de Munchensi.

Thomas Vere, living 1314. = Agnes, or Anne, dau. of William Baron Roos of Hamlake, Co. York.

Joan. = Wm. Plantagenet, son of John, Earl of Warren and Surrey.

Mary. = Sir Edmd. Gedding, Knight, of County Suffolk.

John Vere, 7th Earl of Oxford, Gt. Chamberlain. He held command at Crecy and Poictiers. Seized of estates in Cos. Essex, Hertford, Bedford, Buckingham, Cambridge, Leicester, Hereford, Dorset, Wilts, and of **Kensington** in Co. Middlesex, b. 1313, d. 1360 at Rheims. = Maud, sister and cohr. of Giles, Baron Badlesmere, widow of Sir Roger Fitz Payn, Kt., son of Robert, Baron Fitz Payn. She d. 1366, and was buried at Colne Priory.

Thomas Vere, 8th Earl of Oxford, Gt. Chamberlain. In army of K. Edw. III. b. 1337, d. 1371. = Maud, dau. of Sir Ralph Ufford, bro. of Robt. Earl of Suffolk. She d. 1413.

Aubrey Vere, 10th Earl of Oxford. He had a new grant of the earldom, to him and his heirs, 1393, d. 1400. = Alice, dau. of John, Baron Fitz-Walter.

John Vere, d. 1396, s. p.

Margaret.
1 = Sir Nicholas Louvain.
2 = Henry Lord Beaumont.
3 = Sir John Devereux.

Robert Vere, 9th Earl of Oxford, Gt. Chamberlain, K.G. Favourite of the unfortunate K. Richd. II. Ctd. Marq. of Dublin 1385, Duke of Ireland 1386. Attainted and banished 1388. All his honours forfeited, d. at Louvain 1393, s. p., bur. at Colne. = Philippa dau. of Enguerrand (or Ingelram) de Coucy, Earl of Bedford, by Isabel, eld. dau. of K. Edw. III.
2 = Lancerona, from Bohemia.

Richard Vere, 11th Earl of Oxford, K.G. Fought in the French wars. Had grant by Act of Parl. 1407 of the lands forfeited to Crown by 9th Earl, d. 1417, bu. at Colne. = Alice, dau. of Sir Richard Serjeaulx, Kt., of Cornwall, widow of Guy St. Albyn.

John Vere, d. 1421, s. p.

Alice
1 = Gui d' Albion.
2 = Sir John Fitz Lewes.
3 = Nicholas Thorley.

John Vere, 12th Earl of Oxford, b. 1407. **Kensington,** which the King had held, restored to him 1420. Went to the Holy Land 1435. Fought for the House of Lancaster. Attainted and executed, 26th Feb. 1462. = Elizabeth, dau. and hr. of Sir John Howard, Kt., uncle (by half-blood) of John, 1st Duke of Norfolk.

b

Sir Robert Vere, Knight. = Joan, dau. of Sir Hugh Courtenay, and widow of Sir Nicholas Carew.

c

b

c

Aubrey Vere, ex. before his father 1462, s. p. = Anne dau. of Humphrey Stafford, 1st Duke of Buckingham.

Sir Richard Vere. = Margaret Percy.

Sir Thomas Vere, d. 1489, s. p.

John Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford. Restored 1471. With Earl of Warwick when defeated at Barnet. Attainted. Fought at Bosworth for Henry Earl of Richmond. Restored to all honours and estates, 1 H. VII., and to office of Gt. Chamb., 1 H. VIII., K.G. d. 1513 s. p. s. The Earl
1 = Margt., dau. of Rd. Nevill, Earl of Salisbury.
2 = Elizb., dau. of Sir Richard Scrope. She d. 1537.

Sir George Vere, d. 1503. = Margaret, dau. and hr. of Sir Wm. Stafford of Frome.

Joan. = Sir Wm. Norris, Kt.

Elizb. = Wm. Bourchier, son of Henry Earl of Essex.

Sir John Vere, Knight. = Alice, dau. of Walter Kilrington.

John Vere, 14th Earl of Oxford, Gt. Chamb., called from his small stature "Little John of Camps," s. p., d. 1526. = Anne, dau. of Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk. She d. 1559.

Dorothy (cohr.) = John Nevill, Lord Latimer.

Elizabeth (cohr.) = Sir Anthony Wingfield, K.G.

Ursula (cohr.) d. s. p.
1 = George Windsor, Esq.
2 = Sir Edward Knightley, Kt., of Fawsley, Co. Northamp.

John Vere, 15th Earl of Oxford, Gt. Chamb., K.G. Supported King Henry VIII. in divorce of Queen Kath. of Arragon, d. 1540, bu. at Cas. Hedingham. = Elizb., dau. and hr. of Sir Edw. Trussel, of Cublesdon, Co. Stafford.

The **Kensington** estate was shared by the three sisters, cohrs. of John, 14th Earl of Oxford.

CONTINUATION OF THE PEDIGREE OF VERE from 1526, in which year the **Manor of Kensington** ceased to be the possession of the family.

John Vere, 16th Earl of Oxford, Gt. Chamb. In the army of K. Henry VIII. when Boulogne was taken, 1544, d. 1562.
1 = Dorothy Nevill, dau. of Ralph Earl of Westmoreland.
2 = Margery, dau. of John Golding, Esq., of Halstead, Essex.

Katharine = Edward Lord Windsor.

Aubrey Vere, = Margt., dau. of John Spring, of Lavenham, Suff.

Robert Vere, d. s. p.

Geoffrey Vere. = Elizabeth, dau. of Sir John Hardkyn, of Colchester.

Elizb. = Thos. Baron Darcy, of Chiche.

Ursula, died unmd.

Anne, = Edmd. Baron Sheffield.

Frances. = Henry Earl of Surrey.

John V., of Kirby Hall, Essex, married, but died s. p. l. 1624.

Sir Francis V., distinguished general, = Elizb. Dent. He d. 1609 s. p., bu. in Westm. Ab., where is his monument.

Robert V., k. in battle, 1595.

Horace, Baron Vere of Tilbury 1625 = Mary Tracey. d. 1635 s.p.m., bu. in W. Ab.

Frances V. = Sir Robt. Harcourt.

Edward Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford, Gt. Chamb. One of the peers appointed to try Mary Q. of Scots. Commanded in the fleet against the Armada, 1588. Dissipated his estates, died 1604, buried in Hackney Church.
1 = Anne Cecil, dau. of Wm. Ld. Burghley. She d. 1588, bur. in Westm. Ab.
2 = Elizabeth, dau. of Thos. Trentham, Esq. of Rocester, Co. Stafford. She died 1613.

Mary Vere = Peregrine Bertie, Ld. Willoughby of Eresby, d. 1601.

Robt. Ld. Willoughby, claimed Earldom of Oxford and office of Gt. Chamberlain; allowed the latter, Earl of Lindsey 1626.

Hugh Vere. = Eleanor, dau. of Wm. Walsh.

Jane V. = Henry Hunt, of Gosfield, Co. Essex.

l

e

d

Elizabeth,
= Wm. Earl of Derby.

Bridget,
1 = Francis, Ld. Norris, aftwds. Earl of Berkshire.
2 = Sir Hugh Pollard, Bart. of King's-Nympton, Devon.

Susan,
= Philip Herbert, Earl of Montgomery.

e

Henry Vere, 18th Earl of Oxford, Gt. Chamberlain, fell at the siege of Breda in Holland 1625, s. p., bu. in Westminster Abbey.
= Diana Cecil, dau. of Wm. Earl of Exeter, "one of the greatest fortunes and most celebrated beauties of the period" (*Burke*).

f

Robert Vere, 19th Earl of Oxford. His claim to titles disputed by Lord Willoughby of Eresby (see above). The Earldom adjudged to Vere, the office of of Gt. Chamberlain to Willoughby. The Earl fell at the siege of Maestricht, in Holland, 1632.
= Beatrix, dau. of —— Van Hemmema, of Nufen, Friesland. She d. in Holland 1657.

Aubrey Vere, or "de Vere," 20th Earl of Oxford, b. 1626, during minority in ward to K. Chas. I. In 1648 commanded a regmt. of Eng. inf. in service of States-General. A Royalist during the Civil War, and suffered much in the cause. At the Restoration created K.G. and Ld. Lieut. of Essex, d. 1703, s. p. m., aged 76, buried in the Chapel of St. John the Evangelist, Westminster Abbey.
1 = Anne, dau. and cohr. of Paul, Visct. Bayning. She d. 1659.
2 = Diana, dau. of George Kirke, Esq., Groom of the Bedchamber to King Charles I. She d. 1719, bu. in Ab. of Westm., as also the Countess Anne.

Charles. Charlotte. Died young.

Diana de Vere = Charles Beauclerk, Duke of St. Albans, illegit. son of King Chas. II., d. 1726.

Mary. Henrietta. Died unmarried.

NOTE.—The Earls of Oxford assumed the titles of Bolebec, Samford, and Badlesmere. Mr. Courthope's edition of Nicolas's *Historic Peerage*, p. 63, has that "in 1625 the claim was referred to the House of Lords; and it was resolved, 5th April 1626, that the Baronies of Bolebec, Sandford (*sic*), and Badlesmere were *in abeyance* between the heirs-general of John, VII. Earl of Oxford, without having inquired into the origin or nature of those Baronies, or even their existence in the person of the said Earl." The Baronies of Playz and Scales pertained to the Earls in the same questionable degree. John, the thirteenth Earl, and his successors, appear to have been styled, during the lifetime of their fathers, "Viscount Bolebec."

DESCENT OF THE MANOR OF **KENSINGTON**, WHICH, IN 1526, PASSED FROM THE FAMILY OF VERE BY THE SUCCESSION TO IT OF THE MARRIED SISTERS OF JOHN, 14TH EARL OF OXFORD, HIS CO-HEIRS.

John Nevill Lord Latimer, d. 1542. = Dorothy Vere, sister and cohr. of John, 14th E. of Oxford.

Sir Anthony Wingfield, Kt.
= Elizabeth Vere, sister and coh. of John, 14th E. of Oxford.

Ursula Vere, sister and cohr. of John, 14th E. of Oxford. She married, but d. s. p., and her share in the Manor passed to the heirs of her sisters.

John Nevill, Lord Latimer, d. 1577 s. p. m. = Lucy Somerset, dau. of Henry E. of Worcester.

Sir Robt. Wingfield, Kt., who in 1578 conveyed his moiety of the Manor to Sir Wm. Cornwallis and Lucy Nevill, his wife.

Sir Wm. Cornwallis, Kt., of Brome, Co. Suffolk, d. 1613. = Lucy Nevill, 3d dau. and coh., who, on division of the estates of Lord Latimer, had his moiety of the Manor of **Kensington**; and the other moiety having been conveyed to her and her husband by Sir Robt. Wingfield, they thus acquired the entire Manor, which eventually passed to their youngest daughter,

Anne Cornwallis = Archibald Campbell, 7th Earl of Argyll. The Earl and Countess, in the year of the marriage, 1610, sold the **Kensington** Manor and estate to Sir Walter Cope, Kt.

CHAPTER III

HOLLAND HOUSE

The four divisions of Kensington—Notting Barns—Sir Walter Cope—West Town—The Queen's printer—The Abbot's Manor—The tithes—The Grenvilles—The Abbot's Manor-House—The Earl's Manor—Earl's Court—The heirs of Vere—Cope's Castle—Dame Dorothy—Henry Rich—The Earl of Holland—His execution—His widow—Joseph Addison—His letters to Lord Warwick—Tenants of Holland House—Henry Fox, Lord Holland—His elopement—The third Lord Holland—His elopement—Lady Holland, drawn by Moore—A ghost story—A duel—Pedigrees of the families of Cope, Rich, and Fox.

THE ROUND POND.

PURSUING the history of the divisions of Kensington consequent on the gift to Abingdon by the first Earl Aubrey, the alienation of Notting Barns by the thirteenth Earl of Oxford, the descent of Earl's Court to the co-heirs of the fourteenth earl, and the eventual re-union for a time of all these portions, we see that just before the fall of the religious houses, Kensington contained four manors: Earl's Court, owned jointly by the widows of the thirteenth and fourteenth earls; West Town, by the successors of Simon Downham; Notting Barns, by Westminster Abbey; and Abbot's Kensington, by Abingdon Abbey. If we pursue the history of any one of these estates it brings us to the same name, that of Sir Walter Cope. The best way therefore to trace them all will be to begin with that one which he first obtained.

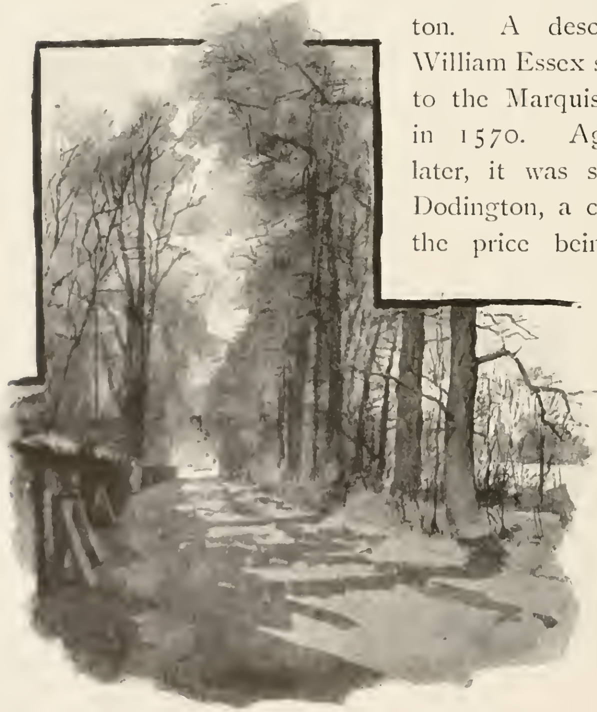
We have also seen that the thirteenth Earl of Oxford was compelled to part with a portion of his estates at the close of the Wars of the Roses, in which he and his family had been so deeply concerned. He sold, through his trustees, the whole northern portion of the parish under the name of Notting or Knotting Barns. There was some mystery or secrecy about the sale. The trustees, or assignees, are named, not the actual seller; and Sir Reginald Bray is named for the actual buyer, who was, as we have seen, the king's mother, the Lady Margaret, Countess of Richmond and Derby. When she left it to Westminster the abbot leased the land to a London citizen, Robert Fenroper, or Fenrother as he wrote himself (see *Parish Magazine*, 1884, p. 126). From Fenrother, the lease, which was no doubt a very profitable one to the tenant, passed to his descendants, the children of his daughter Audrey, who had married Henry White. The abbot and his monastery had meanwhile been despoiled of their estates, and the landlord was now, in 1543, the king. Once more then we have a king in Kensington. Henry VIII. was at this time falling into a state of decrepitude, and seems to have thought hunting necessary to his health, with the result that he first appropriated to himself the monstrous "Honour of Hampton," and afterwards, as he became more and more unwieldy, endeavoured to form a great park or hunting ground all round the western and northern sides of London. In 1543 Henry took up the lease of Notting Barns, by one of those forcible exchanges in which the contracting parties were so unequally matched. He gave the family the manor of Overburgate in Hampshire; and added this portion of Kensington to the hunting country described in the famous proclamation of 1545, when the imperious Henry made manor after manor of Middlesex sacred to his own royal "disport and pastime." But it is very unlikely that he ever saw his new acquisition so far west. Less than two years after the proclamation he was dead; and to connect him with Kensington we have only the anecdote reported in the *Parish Magazine* (1884, p. 226). The roads through the parish were kept in such wretched order that the coffin of the king, when passing from Whitehall to Syon, "was so injured by the jolting it underwent that thorough repair of the leadwork was requisite before it could proceed" to the tomb prepared for it at Windsor.

Notting Barns of course descended to Edward VI.; and in 1549 he leased it to Sir William Paulet, Lord St. John of Basing, and afterwards Earl of Wiltshire and Marquis of Winchester, at 60s. a year. In 1562 Winchester surrendered his lease to Queen Elizabeth, who accepted it in place of a debt, and she must have granted it to her great minister William Cecil, Lord Burghley, for in 1587 he had leave to transfer it to trustees for the benefit of certain of his children after his own death. He still held it in 1598, when he died; and in 1599 his trustees sold it to Sir Walter Cope.

If Cope had kept Notting Barns he would eventually have held the whole re-united parish as it had not been held since Aubrey of Ver gave so large a slice of it to the Abbot of Abingdon. But, though he went through the form of obtaining a pardon from Queen Elizabeth for having bought the land without license, he did not retain possession long. The pardon had cost him £6. He had paid £2000 for the manor. In 1601 he sold it to Sir Henry Anderson, a London alderman, and sheriff that same year, obtaining for it no less than £3400, a handsome profit on his expenditure of £2006.

Though Sir Walter Cope so soon sold Notting Barns, it was only that he might strengthen his hold on other parts of the parish. There is nothing more remarkable in English history than the sudden rise of the middle-class families during the time of Queen Elizabeth. Her long and peaceful reign enriched them, and when James came from Scotland surrounded by swarms of needy adventurers of good birth, he found in his new kingdom a similar crowd, craving not for gold, but for honours and titles. Queen Elizabeth had been very chary of peerages, and left not a single duke in England when she died. But James and his favourites soon filled the House of Lords with new titles, and the order of baronets was invented to satisfy the desires of some who could not be refused, as they supported their demands by offers of money. A few of them were men of good and ancient family, among whom we may reckon Sir Walter Cope: but others who attained to much higher places, such as Lionel Cranfield, Earl of Middlesex, and Baptist Hicks, Viscount Campden, were remarkable for wealth and ability, but not for good birth. The Copes had come to the front as early as the reign of Richard II., and were long seated at Hanwell, near Banbury, where Leland notices their "very pleasant and gallant house." One of them was cofferer to Henry VII.: and changed his old coat of arms, a black boar, for three coffers, in allusion to an office which no doubt brought him much wealth, even under so penurious a master. Eventually a more pleasing device was granted to him, and his descendants still bear this somewhat complicated shield: "Argent, on a chevron azure, between three roses, gules, slipped and leaved vert, as many fleurs-de-lis, or," plainly allusive to the royal arms and badge. Among his descendants we find, towards the end of the sixteenth century, two brothers, of whom the elder, Sir Anthony, was of Bramshill, and was made a baronet in 1611. The younger, Sir Walter, held various situations under the crown, and was described as "of the Strand." When King James came in he seems to have advanced rapidly in the royal favour, and was made one of the Gentlemen of the Privy Chamber. In 1608 he had a grant for twenty-one years of the fines in the court of King's Bench for a rent of "£22 : 4 : 5$\frac{1}{4}$ and the third part of a farthing." In the same year he was advanced to the office of Chamberlain of the Exchequer, and in 1612 he was made Master of the Court of Wards and Liveries. All these were lucrative offices, and we see the result in his large purchases of land, and in the magnificent house which he built at Kensington. At one time or another he possessed almost every part of our parish. We have traced the Notting Hill manor into (and out of) his hands. We have now to tell of the other three manors, and how they came to him one by one.

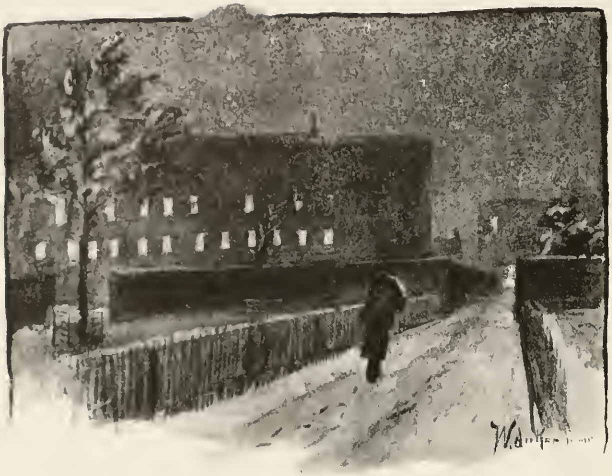
His second hold on Kensington seems to have been at West Town. This, it will be remembered, was a small estate, with a residence on it which had been leased by Earl Robert in 1284 to Simon Downham his chaplain, for ever, at the nearly nominal rent of a penny. It is described as the land and pasture at "le Westoune in villa de Kensintone," and as consisting of three crofts called "le Groves." It appears to have been that piece of land which was intercepted between the Abbot's manor and the western border of the parish, and would answer to Addison Road and the land on either side of it. The house stood on a site within the grounds of Oak Lodge (James M'Henry, Esq.), still known as "The Moats," but converted into an ornamental lake with a rocky islet in the centre. This was the "Ould House in Kensyngton," mentioned in an inquisition taken after Sir Walter Cope's death. From Simon Downham's heirs it passed in 1454 to William Essex, and Edith his wife, and was called a manor held of the manor of Kensington. A descendant of this William Essex sold it for £1000 to the Marquis of Winchester in 1570. Again, two years later, it was sold to William Dodington, a citizen, this time the price being only £700. Master Dodington made a good bargain, as in 1581 he was able to sell his manor of West Town for £2000. The buyer was Christopher Barker,



LANE FROM MELBURY ROAD TO HOLLAND HOUSE.

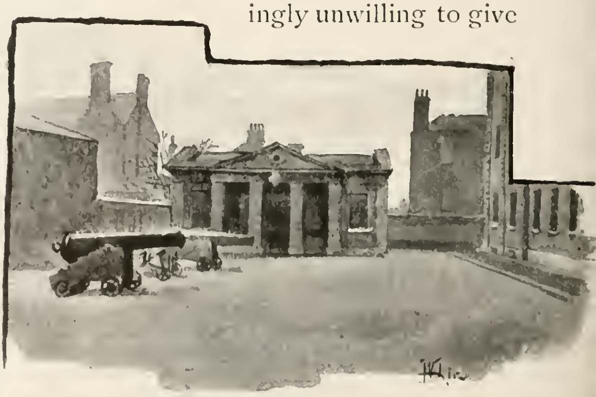
Queen Elizabeth's printer, whose name appears on the title-pages of the famous Breeches Bibles and many others. He paid the whole of the purchase money between the 1st and the 3d November, and held the place for ten years. Barker seems, from circumstances which hardly concern us here, to have been a bad man of business: and his descendants, who held the same office of royal printer, eventually failed. But the crash did not come in his time, though, if he lost as heavily on all other transactions as on this purchase and sale of West Town, it is a wonder that they held on so long. He had paid £2000, and he received £1300. The buyer was Walter Cope of the Strand.

There still remained two manors in Kensington, the Earl's and the Abbot's. Cope was destined to own them both. He seems to have actually lived at West Town after he bought it, and probably was knighted soon after the accession of King James I., in March 1603. The abbot of Abingdon had leased his possessions and tithes in Kensington to a certain William Walwyn, who was auditor of the Duchy of Lancaster. There is an interesting account of him and his family, and an abstract of his will, in the *Parish Magazine* (1883, p. 275). In January 1534 he seems to have been lying ill, and as the lease was only for his life, there was already an arrangement made for the reversion. John Grenville, or "Graynefeld," as he spelled it, with Lettis his wife, obtained a conditional lease: and on the Thursday before the feast of St. Peter ad Vincula (1st August) 1535, William Walwyn died. The Grenvilles obtained possession and continued to hold the manor after the dissolution of the monasteries, under their lease of thirty years from 1534. The tithes and demesne lands were separated at the end of that term; but the manor and rectory continued to belong to the Grenvilles, who paid to the Crown £19 : 6 : 8, and to the vicar four shillings! This is a good example of the influence of the abbeys in parishes, long after the abbeys themselves had ceased to exist. The tithes were granted by Queen Elizabeth to her cousin Sir Edward Carey for twenty-



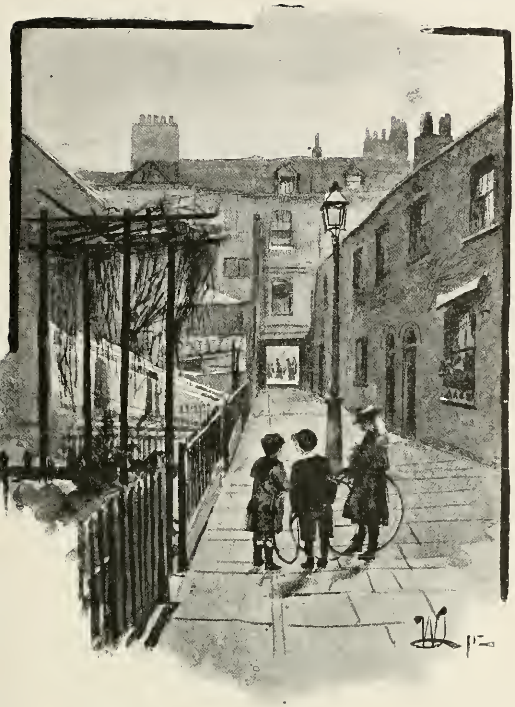
KENSINGTON BARRACKS (NIGHT).

one years; they next belonged to Robert Horseman, who in 1609 sold them to Robert Gynne. A century later they were owned by one Norman, and it might be possible to find out to whom they now belong: but one thing is certain, they never came back to the church. The Abbot's manor seems to have been speedily resumed by the Crown, as long before the expiration of Sir Edward Carey's twenty-one years it was granted to Eliza Snow, widow, for thirty-one years. Before this term had run out, the reversion of the manor was leased in 1592 to Henry Buttell, who was already under-tenant of the premises; but in 1595 it was again leased, this time to Robert Horseman, who appears to have actually lived in the Abbot's manor-house, and who, when the queen sold the place, out and out, over his head, was exceedingly unwilling to give up possession.



KENSINGTON BARRACKS, BARRACK YARD.

The Manor-house must have stood on or very near the site of the Cavalry and Infantry Barracks, which is wholly within the boundaries of the parish. This we know, be-



KENSINGTON PLACE.

cause we read of a piece of meadow called "the More," which lay to the eastward of the house. This, which answers to "Palace Green," was long known as the Moor, and may be identified the more easily, as on it stood the old Conduit, "serving for the Queen's mansion-house at Chelsea." The position of the barracks was called in question lately at a revision of the registration of voters, when a soldier claimed and obtained his franchise, in Kensington.

Owing to the purchase, through trustees, of the manor by Walter Cope, and the unwillingness of Robert Horseman to leave what must have been a very pleasant and convenient dwelling-place, a compromise was arranged by the special intervention of the Queen: and Faulkner prints the agreement in full. By it Robert Horseman was to have the fee-simple of his house and of certain grounds and glebe lands amounting to about 200 acres. The final deed is dated 27th November 1599, and in it the house is called both the Manor-

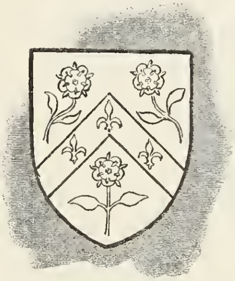
WAITING FOR A FARE.

house and the Parsonage house. With it went several closes and woodlands lying on the northern side of the high road towards Acton and known as Norlands, a name still existing in the parish. But Cope retained the rest of the manor, and in particular a piece of orchard which lay near his house ; and it would seem as if this orchard must have been the future site, or part of it, of the house he built himself, he residing in the meanwhile, as we have seen, at the old manor-house of West Town.

We can now understand three things which might otherwise puzzle us. We know why Holland House was not the manor-house, we know why Cope, not being able to obtain possession of the manor-house, had to build himself a suitable place of residence, and we know when it was that the Abbot's manor and the rectorial tithes and glebe were finally separated. We do not know, however, for certain what became of the manor-house, unless it is represented by Great Grove House, a half-ruined mansion near the barracks.

Living at the "Moats," then, Cope was able to superintend the erection of the mansion so famous in Kensington history as Holland House, and the laying out of the grounds which had come to him with the Abbot's manor. But four years before his death the land at his disposal within the parish was sufficient for a park of any size he pleased, for in 1610, the heirs of the Veres had license to sell to Sir Walter Cope "all that manor or lordship of Earl's Court, and all messuages, lands, etc., in Kensington, Chelsey, and St. Margaret's, Westminster, called or known by the name of The Manor of Earl's Court." Thirty acres, attached to a residence known as Hale House, afterwards Cromwell House, were specially excepted.

The two widowed countesses who, as we saw in the last chapter, had been dowried by Act of Parliament with the manor of Earl's Court, had died before 1558—one of them as early as 1537—and the estates had descended to the co-heirs of John, fourteenth Earl of Oxford. These were three sisters—Lady Elizabeth, Lady Dorothy, and Lady Ursula. The last named, though she was twice married, died in 1560 childless. The eldest sister married Sir Anthony Wingfield, and the younger John Nevill, Lord Latimer.



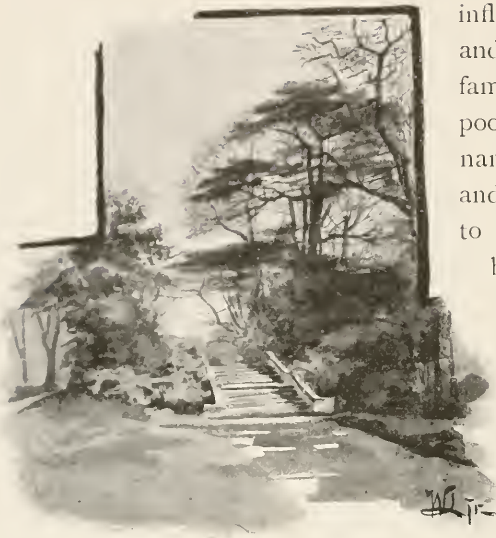
ARMS OF THE COPE FAMILY FROM KENSINGTON PARISH CHURCH.

This Lord Latimer is chiefly remembered as the second husband of a very celebrated lady. "His third wife was Katherine Parr, who at the time, although not more than twenty years of age, was the widow of Lord Borough." Mr. Rutton, from whose paper on the Latimers in the *Records of Buckinghamshire* (vi. 66) I am quoting, goes on to say that "after Lord Latimer's death she became the sixth and last wife of Henry VIII., and after the king's demise married, as her fourth husband, Thomas Lord Seymour of Sudley."

Henry VIII. interfered to prevent the division of the manor, and eventually Lord Latimer's four granddaughters and their cousin Sir Robert Wingfield, after various complicated arrangements which need not be detailed here, arranged that the whole manor should pass to Lucy Nevill, Lord Latimer's third daughter, and her husband Sir William Cornwallis. Their daughter Anne succeeded to Kensington in 1608 by virtue of a family settlement. She had married Archibald Earl of Argyll, and joined her husband in 1609 in selling the manor to Sir Walter Cope, so that this, the first connection of the Argyll family with Kensington, was so brief as to be hardly worth mentioning.

Sir Walter Cope was now lord of the three manors, Abbot's, West Town, and Earl's Court, and would have been owner of the whole parish but for his sale of Notting Barns eight years before, and for the two arrangements by which Hale House and the Abbot's manor-house were reserved.

The architect of Sir Walter Cope's "castle" was John Thorpe; but the building went on for a long time, and in truth was not finished till long after Sir Walter's death. He figures frequently in our parochial history: his wealth and



IN THE GROUNDS OF HOLLAND HOUSE.

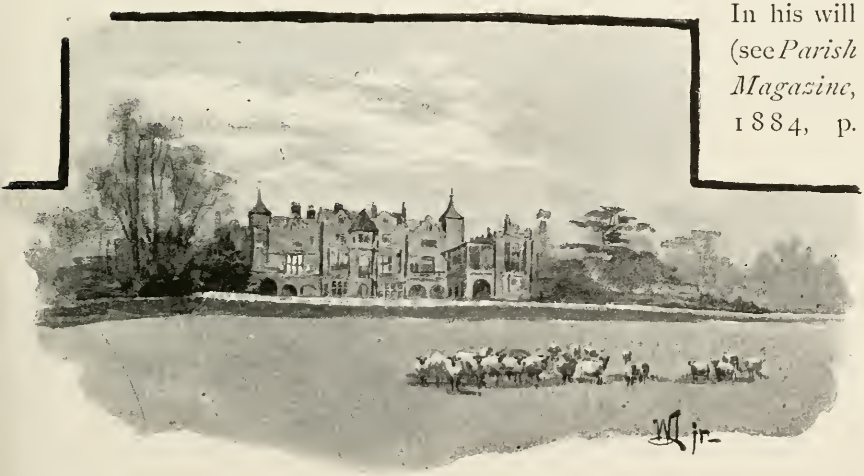
influence are constantly apparent; and when Queen Elizabeth's famous acts for the relief of the poor came into force Cope's name occurs in the records over and over again, chiefly in relation to the apprenticing of destitute boys. The whole population of Kensington was still very small. It was, as the accomplished author of the Notes on the Registers in the *Parish Magazine* well remarks, probably a wool-producing district. "We more than once read of the shepherd at Earl's Court in the Register. The ground stretching from Brompton and Chelsea to the brook which divided the parishes of Kensington and Fulham, was sandy and waste, partly serving as a rabbit warren. Our Register also mentions the weaver and miller."

The registers have been well kept in Kensington ever since the reign of Queen Elizabeth. We learn much from them as to the condition of an almost suburban town in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, before Kensington joined hands with London. There were only three or four marriages in a year and as many christenings. The first notice of the Copes is in 1599, when we read of the marriage of "Mr. John Leigh, Esquier," with Mrs. Anna Cope. The bride was Sir Walter's niece.

Thorpe's design for Holland House is among the treasures of Sir John Soane's museum. The buildings were still in progress forty years after Sir Walter's death, which occurred in July 1614. The entry of his burial runs thus in the Parish Register:—"Sir Walter Coope, Knyght, was buryed Augt. 1."

The main buildings and enclosing walls were finished and are described both in Sir Walter's will and in the report of an inquisition taken after his death. The will (*Parish Magazine*, 1886, p. 259) speaks of his "capital messuage or Mansion House" within the parish of Kensington, and mentions the fact that he was actually living in it. He leaves the house to his wife, "Dame Dorothie," as long as she remains "sole and unmarried to any second husband;" and enumerates "all edifices, houses, barnes, stables, gardens, orchards, yards, and courtyards within the circuit of the utmost bricke wall of the sayd house." The will further mentions a piece of ground and a walk lying to eastward of the house, the same, probably, as that now known as Lord Holland's Lane, though a considerable alteration has been made in part of its length; and also names the "parsonage grounds" still farther east.

The widow, accordingly, came into possession of Cope Castle. Dame Dorothy was a member of the family already mentioned as concerned in obtaining a lease of the manor of the abbots of Abingdon. Her brother was ancestor of the ducal house of Buckingham, but at the beginning of the seventeenth century he had not made up his mind how to spell his surname. In his will (see *Parish Magazine*, 1884, p.

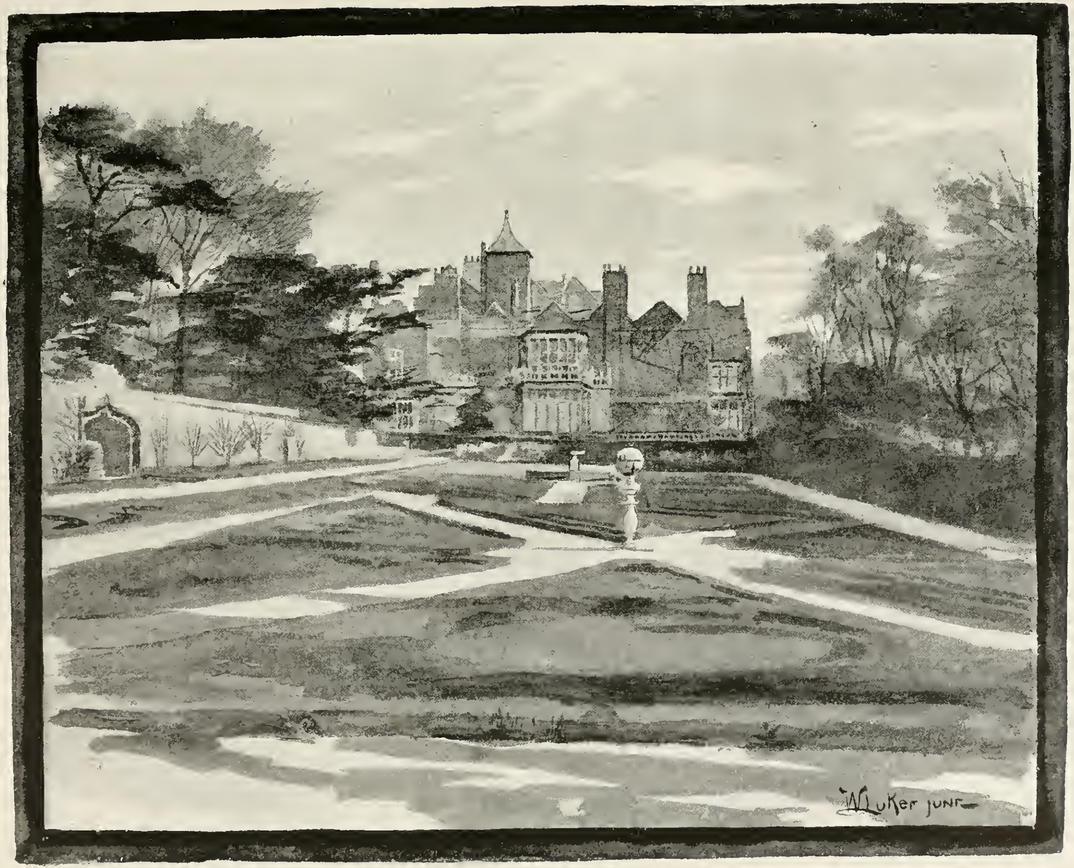


SOUTH FRONT OF HOLLAND HOUSE.

127) he is called John Greinville and John Greinfeld, and his brothers are mentioned as Richard Greenvill and Edward Greenfield. The Grenvilles of Little Pollicott, in Bucks, were connected by marriage with Robert Horseman, already mentioned as keeping Sir Walter Cope out of the manor-house. Dame Dorothy's widowhood endured for seven long years, and then she married, in 1621, Sir Thomas Fowler, and her connection with Cope Castle ceased. The estate, under the provisions of Sir Walter's will, went at once to his only daughter and sole heiress, but after Fowler's death Dame Dorothy, a second time widowed, came back to Kensington, and, in Mrs. Jervis's opinion, resided at the Moats. Her name occurs in the parish register in 1637, when "William Thacker, servant to the Lady ffowler," died and was buried, July 17. A little more than a year later, 30th August 1638, there were two funerals in the church. "The lady Dorithy ffowler," and John Powell her servant, were buried on the same day.

Isabel Cope, Sir Walter's heiress, had been married in the lifetime of her father, at St. Bartholomew's Church, to Sir Henry Rich, a younger son of Robert Rich, first Earl of Warwick, by his wife Penelope, sister of the ill-fated Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, beheaded in 1601. As Sir Henry was made Lord Kensington in 1622, we may safely assume that it was on the occasion of his succeeding to Cope Castle seven years after his father-in-law's death and at least as many years after his marriage with the wealthy heiress. Two years later he was made Earl of Holland, and in 1625 a Knight of the Garter. Holland is one of the "parts" of Lincolnshire, and had not previously been used for a title: indeed, this is among the early examples of an earldom without a county. But James I. left other examples, and his lavish bestowal of titles is so greatly in contrast to the usage of his predecessor on the English throne that our chief wonder is not that he made Rich an earl but that he let Sir Walter Cope die a knight.

It is certain that Lord Holland was not promoted for his personal character or merits. He figures with little credit to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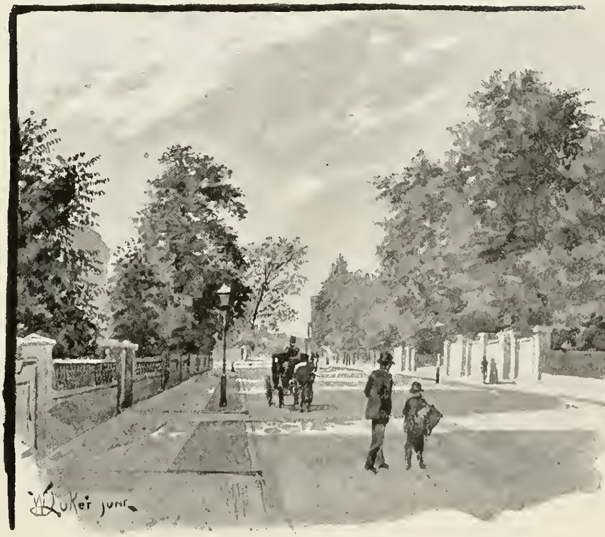
WEST SIDE OF HOLLAND HOUSE.

himself in the great Civil War, and was more remarkable for having, as was said, made an impression on the heart of Queen Henrietta Maria, than for any warlike feat. He wavered at last in his allegiance, and a meeting of Parliamentarians took place at his house, which by this time had acquired the name it still bears. In a few months he again wavered, and after a feeble demonstration in favour of Charles, was taken prisoner at St. Neot's and sent first to Warwick Castle and afterwards to London. He was duly tried and condemned by the same high court which had condemned the king, and with him the Duke of Hamilton and Lord Capel. He appealed to the House of Commons, but his petition was refused by a small majority, and on the 9th March 1649 he appeared on a scaffold in front of Westminster Hall. The body of the Duke of Hamilton had just been carried away, and Holland was himself to be followed by Lord Capel: but he does not seem to have been hurried in his last moments. He gave the headsman ten pounds not to touch his body or take his clothes or the lace cap from his head when it should be off. In his last speech he alluded to the death of the king a few weeks before, blessed the assembled people and wished happiness to the kingdom. He laid his head on the block and himself gave the signal for the axe to fall, when his neck was severed at a single blow. "Such," says Miss Fox very neatly, "was the end of Henry Rich, first Earl of Holland, who owed Holland House to his wife, and to whom Holland House owes its name." His body was buried in Kensington Church.

After his death the Parliamentary general, Lord Fairfax, occupied Holland House, and there are traditions of a visit by Cromwell. Leigh Hunt remarks on the fact that Lord Fairfax's wife was a Vere, "who thus found herself under very extraordinary circumstances contemplating the property of her ancestors." No doubt all Kensington had belonged to Earl Aubrey after the Conquest: but neither the site of Holland House, on part of the Abbot's manor, nor that of the older house of West Town, had belonged to the Veres at the time of their final departure from Kensington, nor for centuries before.

Holland's widow was soon permitted to return with her numerous children. Her eldest son was already married and a father. She is said to have patronised strolling players during the austere days of the Commonwealth, and she enlarged and improved Holland House, which, of course, belonged to her. A stone bears her name and the date 1654. She died in the following year, not surviving to see the Restoration, and her burial took place in Kensington church on the 1st September. Of her ten children eight survived her, three of them sons, of whom Robert succeeded to his father's title, and eventually also to that of his grandfather, becoming Earl of Warwick in 1673. His younger brother, Cope Rich, left descendants, one of whom was the last earl: the eighth of Warwick and the fifth of Holland. His cousin and predecessor was the stepson to whom Joseph Addison's last words were addressed: "See in what peace a Christian can die."

Perhaps the brief connection of Addison with Holland House is more memorable than all the long succession of Hollands and Warwicks. He married, in August 1716, Charlotte, widow of the sixth earl, a daughter of Sir Thomas Middleton of Chirk. The lady had been fifteen years a widow. Their married life was short, for Addison died on the 17th June 1719, and if contemporary reports are to be believed, it was also


W. Luker junr.

ADDISON ROAD.

unhappy. He left one daughter, called after her mother Charlotte, who survived to a great age, but remained unmarried. The stories of Addison's marriage, what led to it and what were its consequences, are most contradictory. He was shy and retiring, according to one, he wooed like Sir Roger de Coverley, he had been in love with the widow for years, he had been tutor to her son, he had lived in the neighbourhood, and so on. Some of these assertions are true, and they may all be true. Addison died of asthma and dropsy, brought on, according to the same gossip, by a taste for strong drink, by dissipation, by hard living; but, according to other versions, he was sober and hard working, and it is certain that no one whose health was disordered by excess could have written Addison's pure, sweet, lucid essays in the *Spectator*. So too there is a story that Holland House was not large enough for Lady Warwick, Addison, and one guest, Peace. But when he died he left her all that he had to leave, and while he lived, after his marriage, he was more at Holland House than anywhere else, though in the meanwhile he had become Secretary of State. He died in what is now the dining-room, on the first floor, looking northward over the gardens and the park. Perhaps he had chosen this room for its nearness to the principal library, where his writing-table is preserved. We must not however too hastily assume that it is a table Addison used while he lived at Holland House. It was in his possession when he had chambers in the Temple, and successively belonged to his daughter, to Sir Thomas Lawrence, and to Samuel Rogers. Finally, whether it had ever been there before or not, it came to Holland House by purchase after Rogers's sale in 1856.

Faulkner (p. 108) printed some letters from Addison to his future stepson. They are doubly interesting as being from the pen of the great essayist and as giving us a picture of the rural character of the neighbourhood of Kensington 180 years ago. Addison was living at this time in an old house near Little Chelsea,—we shall have more to say about this hamlet farther on,—at a place called Sandy End—now Stanley Bridge—said to have been built by or for Nell Gwynn. It was still in existence a century after Addison's time, and was actually within the boundaries of Fulham. It is evident from these letters that Addison, who at the time he wrote was Commissioner of Appeals, was on very friendly terms with the inhabitants of Holland House. If the young Lord Warwick in any way merited so much kindness and attention from the great writer and politician, he can hardly have turned into a worthless profligate ten years later, unless indeed a taste for bird-nesting is a sign of profligacy.

MY DEAR LORD—I have employed the whole neighbourhood in looking after birds' nests, and not altogether without success. My man found one last night; but it proved a hen's with fifteen eggs in it, covered with an old brooding duck, which may satisfy your Lordship's curiosity a little, though I am afraid the eggs will be of little use to us. This morning I have news brought to me of a nest that has abundance of little eggs, streaked with red and blue veins, that by the description they give me, must make a very beautiful figure on a string. My neighbours are very much divided in their opinions upon them: some say they are sky-larks; others will have them to be a canary bird's; but I am much mistaken in the turn and colour of the eggs, if they are not full of tom-tits. If your Lordship does not make haste, I am afraid they will be birds before you see them; for if the account they give me of them be true, they can't have above two days to reckon.

Since I am so near your Lordship, methinks, after having passed the day among the more severe studies, you may often take a trip hither, and relax yourself with these little curiosities of nature. I assure you, no less a man than Cicero commends the two great friends of his age, Scipio and Lælius, for entertaining themselves at their country houses, which stood on the sea shore, with picking up cockle shells, and looking after birds' nests. For which reason I shall conclude this barren letter with a saying of the same author, in his treatise on friendship: "Absint autem tristitia, et in omni re severitas: habent illæ quidem gravitatem; sed amicitia debet esse lenior et remissior, & ad omnem suavitatem facilitatemque morum proclivior:" id est, "Far be stateliness and severity from us: there is indeed a gravity in these; but friendship ought to be gentle and relaxed, condescending to the utmost sweetness and easiness of manners." If your Lordship understands the sweetness of these words, you may assure yourself you are no ordinary Latinist; but if they have force enough to bring you to Sandy End, I shall be very well pleased.—I am, my dear Lord, your Lordship's most affectionate and most humble servant, J. ADDISON.

May 20, 1708.

My dearest Lord—I can't forbear being troublesome to your Lordship whilst I am in your neighbourhood. The business of this is to invite you to a concert of music, which I have found out in a neighbouring wood. It begins precisely at six in the evening, and consists of a blackbird, a thrush. a robin-red-breast, and a bull-finch. There is a lark, that, by way of overture, sings and mounts till she is almost out of hearing; and afterwards falls down leisurely, drops to the ground, or as soon as she has ended her song: the whole is concluded by a nightingale, that has a much better voice than Mrs. Tofts, and something of Italian manners in her divisions.

If your Lordship will honour me with your company, I will promise to entertain you with much better music, and more agreeable scenes, than you ever met with at the Opera; and will conclude with a charming description of a nightingale, out of our friend Virgil:

So, close in poplar shades, her children gone,
The mother Nightingale laments alone,
Whose nest some prying churl had found, and thence
By stealth convey'd th' unfeather'd innocents.
But she supplies the night with mournful strains,
And melancholy music fills the plains.—Dryden.

Your Lordship's most obedient
J. Addison.

May 27, 1708.

Lord Warwick did not long survive his stepfather. He died on the 16th August 1721, at the early age of twenty-four. The titles and estates passed to a cousin, Edward Rich, the grandson of Cope Rich mentioned above. He was the last earl, and dying in 1759, left an only daughter, Lady Charlotte, who, when she was laid to rest among her ancestors under Kensington Church in 1791, at the age of seventy-eight, had survived all her relatives of the name.

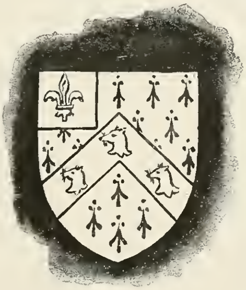
The estates never descended to Lady Charlotte. After the death of Earl Edward, they went to his cousin, on whose mother, Lady Elizabeth Edwardes, they had been settled. He let Holland House on lease, and eventually sold it altogether to Henry Fox.

The house had been frequently let at an earlier period. It was occupied in the reign of Charles II. by Chardin, an Oriental traveller, and in the reign of James II. by William Penn. When William III. was looking about for a house near

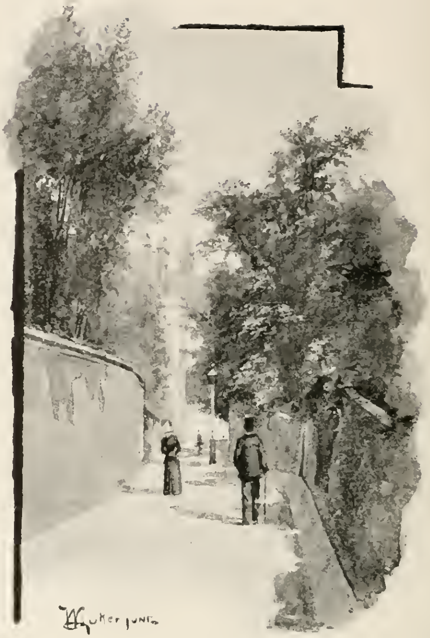
London, just after his accession, he came to see Holland House, but eventually settled on Nottingham House, a much more convenient place for his purpose. The tenants who immediately preceded Fox seem to have been Morice, who had married Bishop Atterbury's daughter; and William Shippen, called by Pope "downright Shippen," a member of Parliament whom even Walpole could not bribe, and who wrote an elegy on the death of the Duke of Gloucester, his neighbour on Campden Hill. Lord Lechmere, who afterwards bought Campden House, lived at Holland House also for a time.

In 1776, William Edwardes, the inheritor of the estates, was created Lord Kensington, and until lately his successors were lords of the manor of Earl's Court, and of such portions of the Abbot's manor as did not go with Holland House.

Henry Fox, the purchaser of Holland House, like Sir Walter Cope, its founder, enjoyed a lucrative office under the government. He was paymaster-general of the forces in the reign of George II., and was made a peer as Lord Holland in 1763. His wife, Lady Caroline, daughter of Charles, second Duke of Richmond, had been made Baroness Holland the year before. The family of the first Lord Holland of this creation was not, so far as can be ascertained, of ancient lineage. Sir Stephen Fox, his father, raised himself by his remarkable abilities, from a station so low, that according to one account he began life as a choir boy in a cathedral, and according to another was once a footman. Two of his sons rose to the peerage, Lord Ilchester, and the buyer of Holland House. The story of Henry Fox's elopement with Lady Caroline Lennox has often been told; it is said that her parents proposed to marry her to a suitor more equal in rank, but that she evaded an interview by disfiguring her face in a temporary manner—by cutting off her eyebrows, as the story goes—and took



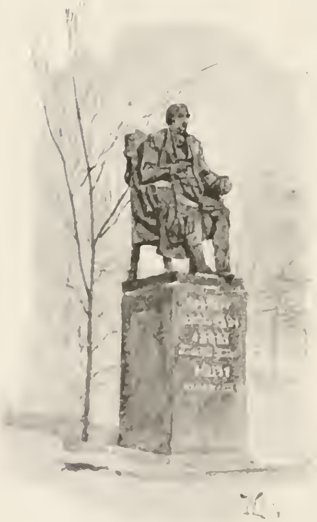
ARMS OF THE FOX FAMILY.



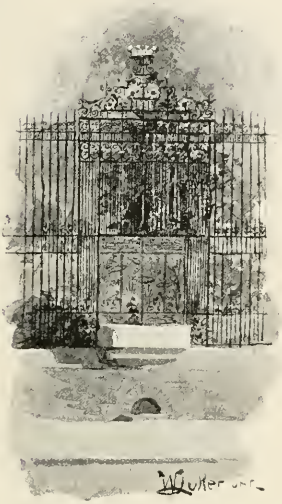
LORD HOLLAND'S LANE.

advantage of the consequent seclusion to slip away unperceived with her lover, Fox. When she was made a peeress she attributed her elevation, and justly, to her beloved husband, taking the motto, *Re e marito.* Leigh Hunt translates this motto, "King and husband," from which we may infer that it is in Italian. A coat-of-arms in the library bears the device, and was put up on this occasion. Shortly afterward, namely in April 1763, Fox became himself a peer, taking the same title. It is curious to observe that if Lady Holland had died before her husband, there would have been two Lords Holland in the upper house, father and son. As it was, Lord Holland died on the 1st July 1774, and the baroness survived him, but only till the 24th of the same month. Nor did their son live long to enjoy the double honours thus transmitted, for he died before the end of the year, namely on the 16th December, leaving by his wife, Mary, daughter of John Fitz Patrick, Earl of Upper Ossory, a son, Henry Richard, then only a year old. This son lived to be the Lord Holland so celebrated by Sydney Smith and Macaulay.

The shortlived Stephen, second Lord Holland, had a younger brother



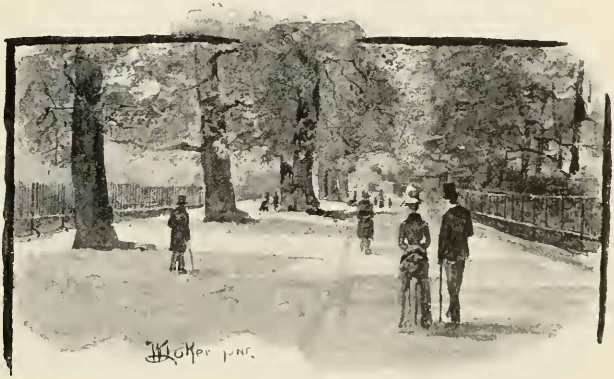
LORD HOLLAND'S STATUE.



FOUNTAIN IN HOLLAND PARK.

who is generally looked upon as the great luminary of the family. This was the eminent statesman, Charles James Fox, who was virtually prime minister for a short time before his death in 1806, as Secretary for Foreign Affairs, but is more celebrated as the leader of the Opposition during Pitt's long lease of power. He was born in London, not at Holland House, where, however, he spent his early life, and died at Chiswick, in the Palladian villa which Lord Burlington had built.

The third Lord Holland practically renovated Holland House. Leigh Hunt points out the probability that he himself either dictated or actually wrote the account in Faulkner. The house is there very fully described as it was in 1820, the time when the greatest number of wits and celebrities of all kinds were entertained by Lord and Lady Holland. Miss Fox gives us a long list of these great folk, and we may pick out a few names and refer the reader to her book for the rest. We have mentioned Macaulay and Smith, but Sheridan, Byron, Moore, Thurlow, Brougham, Curran, Washington Irving, Humboldt, Talleyrand, Madame de Staël, and a great many other foreigners were also there. One fails in all the long list to find the names of many ladies; but it was not until late in life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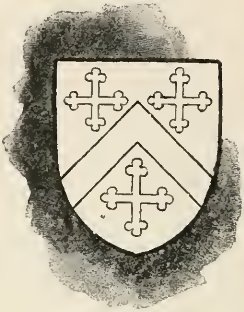
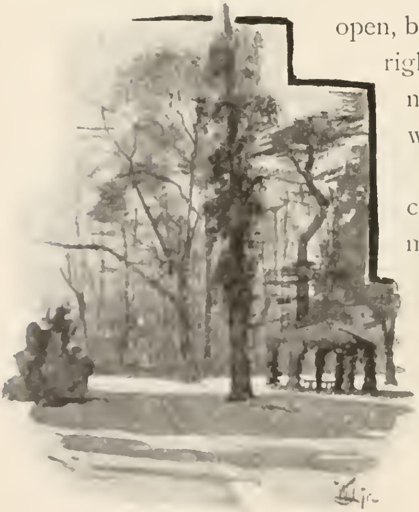
LORD HOLLAND'S LANE.

that the faults of youth were condoned; and Lady Holland's desertion of her first husband and her children was not easily forgiven by the rest of her sex. Her frankness as a hostess sometimes amounted to brutality. Moore said of her, "She is a warm and active friend, and I should think her capable of high-mindedness upon occasions;" but the merit which chiefly distinguished her, I think, must have been her hospitality, which was ungrudging, and led Sydney Smith, when laid up ill at Holland House, to say it was a place fitted with every convenience for sickness and death. Her husband is commemorated by a beautiful statue, in bronze, by Mr. G. F. Watts, which faces the Kensington Road, behind an open railing, through which glimpses of the old house beyond may be obtained.



ARMS OF THE RICH FAMILY.

The ten portraits by Reynolds rival even the old house itself in attractiveness, but these are only a feature among the art treasures gathered here. The fourth Lord Holland died in 1859, just ten days before his neighbour Lord Macaulay. Since his death the general public have seen but little of Holland House. At an annual garden party, the gates are thrown open, but, no doubt, the present owner judges rightly, that a place of such celebrity so near London must be secluded or it would be overrun with sight-seers.



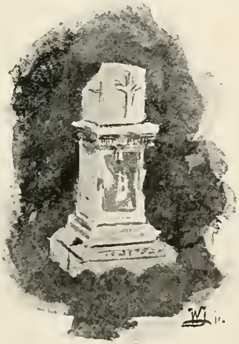
THE FRONT WALK, HOLLAND HOUSE.

The architecture is of a very mixed character, and the third Lord Holland made many very thorough alterations, some of them improvements. There are gates by Inigo Jones, and the later decorations are very classical in style; but the trace of old Gothic feeling is apparent everywhere. The gardens are very fine, with alcoves, statues, and busts, memorials of various kinds, and shady walks and avenues. One of these, the "Green Lane," leads to Melbury Road, and is traditionally the scene of the ghost story told by Aubrey :—

> "The beautiful Lady Diana Rich, daughter to the Earl of Holland, as she was walking in her father's garden at Kensington, to take the fresh air before dinner, about eleven o'clock, being then very well, met with her own apparition, habit and everything, as in a looking-glass; about a month after, she died of the smallpox. And it is said that her sister, the Lady Isabella Thynne, saw the like of herself before she died. A third daughter of Lord Holland was the wife of the first Earl of Breadalbane, and it has been recorded that she also, not long after her marriage, had some such warning of her approaching dissolution."

Another sad story has its scene close by, the duel between Lord Camelford and Captain Best in 1804, which took place on the site of the old manor-house of West Town, now within the grounds of Oak Lodge. Lord Camelford, who was a near relative of William Pitt, was the first to fire, but missed; and Best shot him through the body. He was carried to Little Holland House, and died a few days later. The spot where he met his death wound is no longer marked with a stone, but has been pointed out to me by Mr. M'Henry, the present owner of The Moats, whose extensive collections relating to Holland House have proved most valuable.

The following pedigrees, kindly compiled for me by Mr. William Loftie Rutton, will show the descent of Holland House :—



THE DUEL MEMORIAL STONE
(now removed).

PEDIGREE OF THE FAMILIES OF COPE AND RICH.

John Cope, Sheriff of Co. Northamp., 1400 and 1404. d. 1415. From whom descended

William Cope = Jane, dau. of John Spencer, d. 1513 of Hodnell, Co. Warwick.

Sir Anthony Cope, Kt., Vice-Chamberlain to Q. Katharine Parr. Sheriff of Cos. Oxford and Berks, 1548. = Jane, dau. of Matthew Crews, of Pynne, Devon.

Edward Cope, of Hanwell, Middlesex. = Elizabeth, dau. and hr. of Walter Mohun, of Wollaston, Northampton.

Sir Anthony Cope, Baronet, of Hanwell, Middlesex, ctd. Baronet 1611. H. Sheriff of Co. Oxford 1581 & '90, M.P. for Banbury, d. 1614.
= Frances, dau. of Rowland Lytton of Knebworth, Co. Hertford.
2 = Anne, dau. of Sir Wm. Paston, Kt. of Paston, Norfolk. Widow of Sir George Chaworth, and of Sir Nicholas L'Estrange.

Descendant, **Rev. Sir Wm. Henry Cope, 12th Bart.,** of Bramshill, Hants.

Sir Walter Cope, Kt., of Kensington. Master of the Court of Wards, etc. He purchased the manor of Kensington in 1610 from the heirs of Vere, and built part of Holland House, d. 1614, bu. at Kensington.
= Dorothy, eldest dau. of Richard Grenville, Esq., of Wotton, Co. Bucks, Ancestor of the Dukes of Buckingham. She 2 = Sir Thos. Fowler, Kt., and d. 1638, bur. at Kensington.

Richard Rich, Merchant of London, Sheriff 14
d. 1469. From whom descended

Richard Rich, of the Middle Temple, Chancello
the Court of Augmentations. Ctd. **Baron Ric**
Leeze (Leighs), Essex, and Lord Chancellor, 1
d. 1568. = Elizabeth Jenks, of Lond

Robert, 2d Baron Rich, one of the peers on the trial of Thos. Duke of Norfolk, 1572. d. 1581.
= Elizabeth, dau. of Geo. Baldry, Esq.

Sir Hugh Rich, Kt. d. 1554, s.p.
= Anne, dau. of Sir John Wentworth, Kt. of Gosfield, Essex. She 2 = Henry, Ld. Maltravers, and 3 = Wm. Deane, Esq. She d. 1581, s.p.

2 so
d. s.
9 da
marri

Richard Rich, d. s. p. in lifetime of his father.
= Katharine, dau. of Sir Henry Howard, Kt.

Sir Edwd. Rich, Kt., of Mulbarton, Norf.
= Honora, dau. of Charles Warlick, Esq.

Robert, 3d Baron Rich, ctd. **Earl of Warwick** 1618, d. 1618.
= Lady Penelope Devereux, dau. of Walter Earl of Essex. Divorced 1605. The Earl 2 = Frances, dau. of Sir Christopher Wray, Kt., widow of Sir Geo. Paul.

2 d

2

Isabel Cope, hr. to the Manor of Kensington, d. 1655, bu. in the church of Kensington with her husband. = **Sir Henry Rich, K.B.,** Capt. of the Yeomen of the Gd. **Baron Kensington** 1622, **Earl of Holland,** Co. Linc., 1624., K.G. 1625, Lord Lieutenant of Co. Middlesex, executed 1640.

1 3

Robert Rich, 2d Earl of Warwick, 4th Baron Rich, Ld. High Admiral of Eng. for the Parl., etc. etc., d. 1658.
= Frances, dau. of Sir Wm. Hatton, Knt.
2 = Susan (Rowe), wid. of Wm. Halliday, alderm. of London.
3 = Eleanor, Dowager Countess of Sussex, dau. of Sir Edw. Wortley, Kt., & wid. of Sir Henry Lee, Bart.

Sir Charles Rich, slain at Isle of Ré, off W. France, 1627.

4 da
marr

a

ert Rich, d Earl of olland. d Baron ensing-on. Sucd. s **5th Earl f War-ick,** and **th Baron ich,** 1673. d. 1675. u. at Ken-ington Ch. with both his wives. = Elizabeth, dau. of Sir Arthur Ingram, Kt., of Co. York. She d. 1661. 2 = Anne Montagu, dau. of Edward Earl of Manchester. She d. 1689.

Charles R., d. 1645.

Henry R., d. 1669.

6 daus. (of whom 4 md.)

Cope Rich, b. 1635, d. 1676. =

b

Robert Rich, 3d Earl of Warwick. 5th Baron Rich, d. 1659. = Anne Cavendish, dau. of Wm. 2d Earl of Devonsh. The Earl 2 = Anne, dau. of Sir Thos. Cheke, Kt., of Pirgo, and widow of — Rogers, Esq.

Charles Rich, 4th Earl of Warwick, 6th Baron Rich, d. 1673, s. p. s. = Mary Boyle, dau. of Richd., Earl of Cork.

Henry R., Hatton R. d. unmd. 3 daus. married.

Charles Ld. Rich, d. s. p. in lifetime of his father. = Anne, dau. of Wm. 3d Earl of Devonshire.

nry Rich, Ld. ensington, 1659 s. p. hristiana, dau. ir And. Ricard.

harles, Robert, Ingram, 2 daus., l. young, or s. p.

Edward Rich, 6th Earl of Warwick, 3d Earl of Holland, 3d Baron Kensington, 8th Baron Rich, d. 1701. Bu. at Kensington. = Charlotte, dau. of Sir Thos. Middleton, Bart., of Chirk, Co. Denbigh. She d. 1731. The Countess 2 = The Rt. Hon. Joseph Addison, Sec. of State, b. 1672, d. 1719. bu. in Westm. Ab.

Elizabeth Rich. = Francis Edwardes, of Haverford West, Co. Pembroke.

Cope Rich. =

Robert Rich, d. in lifetime of grandfather, 1658, s. p., two months after marriage. = Frances, youngest dau. of Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector. She 2 = Sir John Russell, Bart., of Chippenham, Wilts.

ard Henry Rich, th Earl of War-ick, 4th Earl f Holland, 4th aron Kensing-on, 9th Baron ich. d. 1721, æt. 4, unmd. Bu. at ensington.

Charlotte Addison of Bilton, nr. Rugby, Co. Warwick, d. 1797, unmarried.

William Edwardes only surviving son. Ctd. 1776, **Baron Kensington,** in the Peerage of Ireland. Sold Holland House d. 1801. = Elizb. dau. of Wm. Warren, Esq., of Longridge, Co. Pembroke. She d. 1814.

Edward Rich, 8th Earl of Warwick, 5th Earl of Holland, 5th Baron Kensington, 10th Baron Rich, d. 1759, bu. at Kensington. (Titles extinct.) = Mary, dau. of Samuel Stanton, Esq., of Lynn Regis, Co. Norfolk. She d. 1769. Monument in church of Kensington.

cendant — **William Edwardes, 4th Baron Kensington,** in the Peerage of reland, and **1st Baron Kensington,** in the Peerage of Gt. Britain, 1886. = Grace Elizb., dau. of Robt. Johnstone-Douglas, Esq., of Lockerbie, N.B.

Charlotte Rich, d. 1791, unmarried, bu. at Kensington.

PEDIGREE OF THE FAMILY OF FOX OF HOLLAND HOUSE.

William Fox, of Farley, Co. Wilts, d. Oct. 1652. = Margaret, dau. of Thomas Pavey, of Plaitford, Co. Wilts.

John Fox, of Avebury, Co. Wilts Royalist. Fought at battle of Worcester. Of the R. Household, b. 1611, d. 1691, bur. in Westminster Abbey. = Elizabeth, dau. of Henry Smart of Plymouth.

Line extinct in grandson.

Sir Stephen Fox, Kt., Cofferer of the R. Household on the Restoration, Paymaster of the Forces, etc., Lord of the Treasury 1679, M.P. for Salisbury 1661, aftwds. for Cricklade, b. 1627, d. 1716, bur. at Farley, Wilts. = Elizabeth, da of Wm. Whi of London. She d. 1696 bur. at Farle

Charles Fox, M.P. for Eye, Suffolk, 1679, for Cricklade, and for Salisbury. Paymaster of the Forces, temp. Chas. II., James II., and Anne, d. 1713 s. p. = Elizabeth, dau. and hr. of Sir William Trollope, Baronet. She d. 1703.

Sir Stephen (at the age of 76) 2 = Christiana, dau. and cohr. of Rev. Francis Ho of Haceby, Co. Lincoln. She d. 1719.

Stephen Fox, P.C., M.P. for Shaftesbury, ctd. 1741 **Baron Ilchester** of Ilchester, Somerset, and **Baron Strangways** of Woodsford, Dorset; and in 1747 **Baron Ilchester** and **Stavordale, Baron of Redlynch,** Somerset; and in 1756 **Earl of Ilchester.** He assumed addl. name of Strangways, b. 1704, d. 1776. = Elizabeth, dau. and hr. of Thos. Strangways Horner, by Susannah, dau. and coh. of Thos. Strangways of Melbury, Co. Dorset.

Henry Fox, M.P. for Hind 1735, Sec. of State 1755, c 1763 **Baron Holland** of Foxl Wilts, purchased Holland Hou Kensington, d. 1st July 1774 = **Georgina Caroline Lenn** dau. of Charles Duke of Ri mond, ctd. 1762 **Baroness H land** of Holland, Co. Linc She d. 24th July 1774.

Henry Thos. Fox-Strangways, 2d Earl of Ilchester, Baron Ilchester, Baron Strangways, etc., d. 1802. =

Stephen Fox, 2d Baron Holland of Foxley, **2d Baron Holland** of Holland, d. 26th Dec. 1774. = Mary Fitzpatrick, dau. of John Earl of Upper Ossory. She d. 1778.

Charles James Fox, b. 1749, M.P. for Midhurst 1768, Lord of the Admiralty 1770, Sec. for Foreign Affairs 1784, and again in 1806 (virtually Prime Minister), d. 1806, bur. in Westmr. Abbey, s. p. = Elizabeth Bridget Armstead, *als.* Blanc, d. 1842.

Henry Edward Fox, G eral in the army, G of Gibraltar 1804-18 d. 1811. = Marianne, dau. of W Clayton, Esq.

Henry Stephen Fox, b. 1791, d. 1846.

2 daus. (married

Henry Stephen Fox-Strangways, 3d Earl of Ilchester, Baron Ilchester, etc., d. 1858. = s. p. m.

William Thomas Fox-Strangways, 4th Earl of Ilchester, Baron Ilchester, etc., d. 1865. = s. p.

John George Chas. Fox-Strangways, d. 1859. = Amelia, dau. of Edw. Marjoribanks, Esq.

Henry Richard Fox, F.R.S. and F.S.A., **3d Baron Holland** of Holland, Co. Linc., **3d Baron Holland** of Foxley, Co. Wilts, Recorder of Nottingham, Ld. Privy Seal 1806, Chanc. of the Duchy of Lancaster 1830, d. 1840. He assumed, for himself only, the name of Vassall, his children retaining that of Fox. = Elizabeth, dau. a hr. of Richard Vassall, Esq. Her previous m riage with Sir Godfrey Webst Bart., was dissolved, June 1797. She died 1845.

Henry Edward Fox-Strangways, 5th Earl of Ilchester, Baron Ilchester and **Baron Strangways, Baron Ilchester and Stavordale, Baron of Redlynch,** b. 1847. = Mary Eleanor Anne Dawson, dau. of Richard Earl of Dartrey.

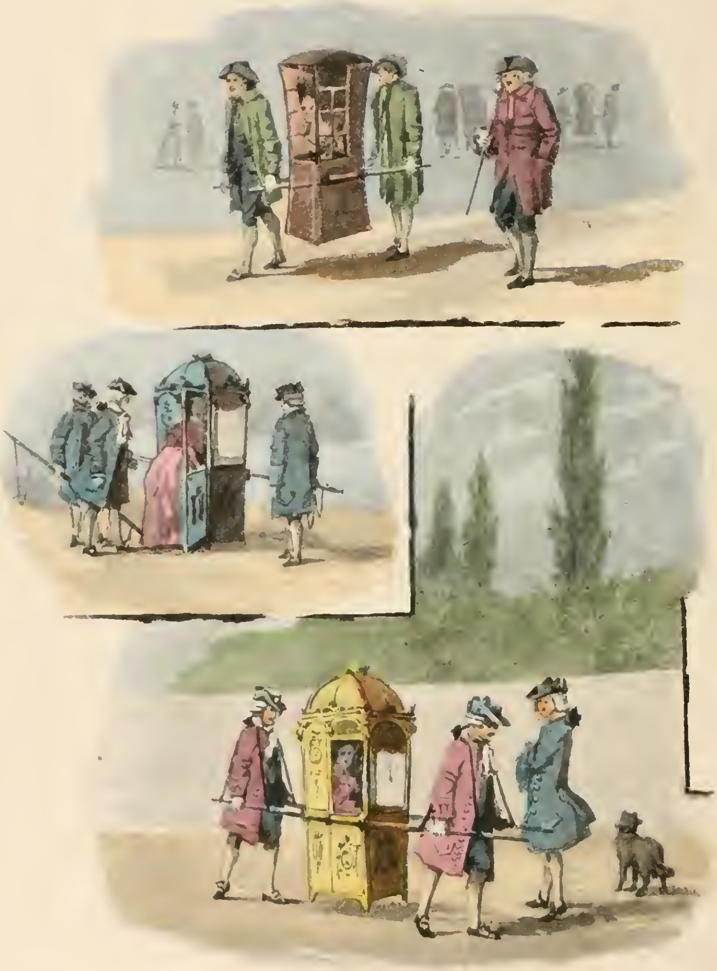
Stephen, d. inf.

Henry Edward Fox, b. 1802, **4th Baron Holland** of Holland, **4th Baron Holland** of Foxley, Minister to Tuscany, d. 1859 s. p. = Mary Augusta Coventry, dau. of George Wm., 8th Earl of Coventry.

Mary Elizabeth Fox, b. 1806. = **Thomas Atherton Powys, 3d Baron Lilford,** d. 1861.

Thomas Lyttleton Powys, 4th Baron Lilford.

Georgina Anne Fo b. 1809, d. 181



STREET TRAVELLING IN SEDAN CHAIRS.

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CHAPTER IV

OLD KENSINGTON

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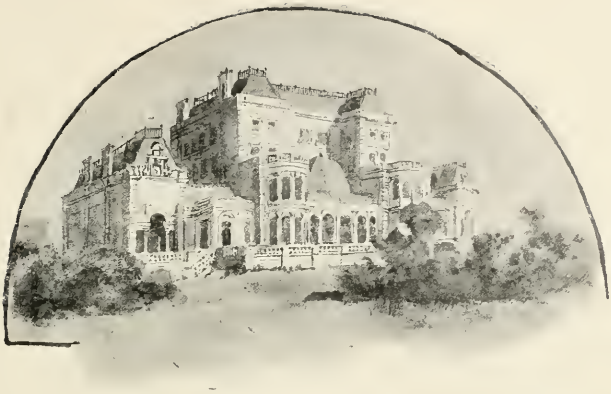
EVERY extension of the capital in the seventeenth century, when plague broke out in London year after year, was regarded with jealousy by the authorities, and constant efforts were made to prevent people from settling in the neighbourhood of the Strand, in Holborn, and about Charing Cross. But while it was practically unlawful to build houses in certain districts of the city, it was equally impossible for another reason to build farther out. At such places as Kensington, for example, during the reign of Elizabeth the protection of life and property was so imperfectly provided for, that to venture along the lonely path



KENSINGTON HOUSE.

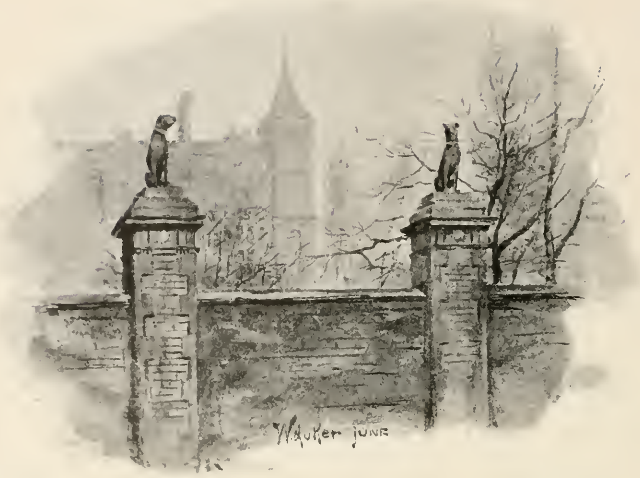
CHAPTER IV

OLD KENSINGTON

Influence of the plague on Kensington—Campden House—Hicks and his descendants—Lindsey—The Princess Anne—The Duke of Gloucester—Pedigree of the Noels—Burlington—Lechmere—Little Campden House—Bullingham House—Orbell's Buildings—Sir Isaac Newton—Aubrey House—Sheffield House—Scarsdale House—Kensington Square—Young Street—Thackeray in Kensington—Eminent inhabitants of the Square—Kensington House—Colby House—Kensington Court—Hale House—The Cromwells and Kensington—Edmund Burke.

IN NOTTING HILL SQUARE.

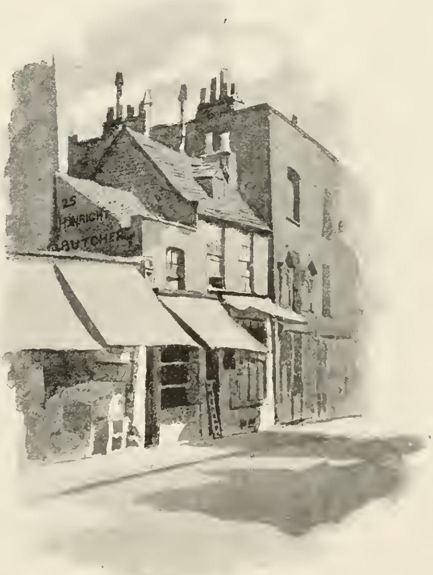
EVERY extension of the suburbs in the seventeenth century, when plague broke out in London year after year, was regarded with disfavour by the authorities; and constant efforts were made to prevent people from settling in the neighbourhood of the Strand, in Soho, and about Charing Cross. But while it was practically unlawful to build within a certain distance of the city, it was equally impossible for another reason to build farther out. At such places as Kensington for example, before the reign of Elizabeth, the protection of life and property was so imperfectly provided for, that to venture along the lonely park



OLD GATEWAY, CAMPDEN HOUSE.

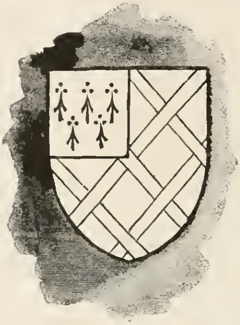
wall after dark was a danger no one who had anything to lose would think of incurring. The nightly gun at Holland House originated in such times as these, and people who were obliged on account of duty or business to reside within reach of London had to take their choice between highwaymen in the suburbs, and the unwholesome air of the city. Kensington, from which London could be reached on horseback in an hour, and which was reputed fairly healthy, began to increase in population almost suddenly towards the end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth; and when, during the terrible outbreak of the plague in the beginning of the reign of James I., all men who had country houses were desired to depart from London, the convenience of living in such a suburb became very great, the more so, when by reason of the quality and the number of the noblemen and gentlemen who sought our parish, the smaller folk found an unwonted security, both in their dwellings and when they wanted to go to London or come from it in the retinues they could easily join. Though in 1620 building was prohibited altogether within ten miles of London, and though in the time of Oliver Cromwell that law was enforced, and another added to the effect that every new house must have four acres of land round it, Kensington grew, both in population and favour. So by the time William III. bought Nottingham House and its park, Kensington was becoming a prosperous place; and the addition of the King's Guards to its other securities, with the disuse of the laws against suburban building, gradually led to its becoming what it long continued to be, the best and most fashionable, the most secure and most healthy, of all the Middlesex villages.

I cannot tell whether Campden House or Hale House deserves to be considered the first of these now memorial villas. When Sir Walter Cope, as we hear, lost a few acres of ground to the north of the church to Sir Baptist Hicks at a game of cards, the barren heath among the gravel pits, which a few years before would not have been worth accepting against a gambling debt, had become a most eligible spot for the building of a country house. It was high and dry, and the view from it over the Thames and the Surrey hills was even then something to admire, little as our ancestors cared for landscape. Hicks, a city merchant, had to spend even his summers within reach of the city, and the little holding on what eventually became known as Campden Hill exactly suited him. When James I. gave him a peerage in 1628, he took his title from Chipping Campden in Gloucestershire. He had been made a baronet eight years before, and an alderman of London in 1612; but it was as financial agent to the king immediately after his accession that he obtained his remarkable elevation. Like his friend Cope, he was blessed with an only daughter; and while Cope desired to secure

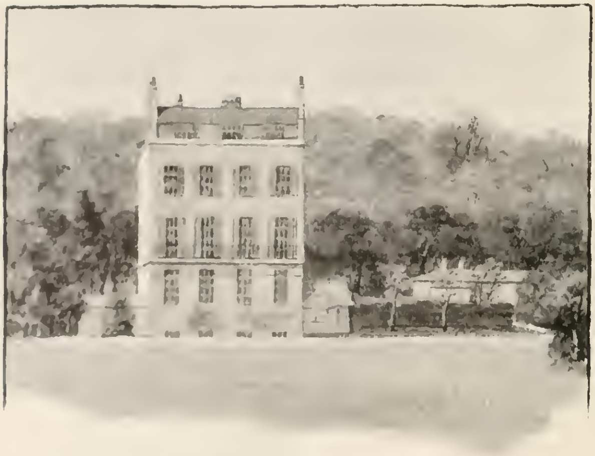


NO. 25 SILVER STREET.

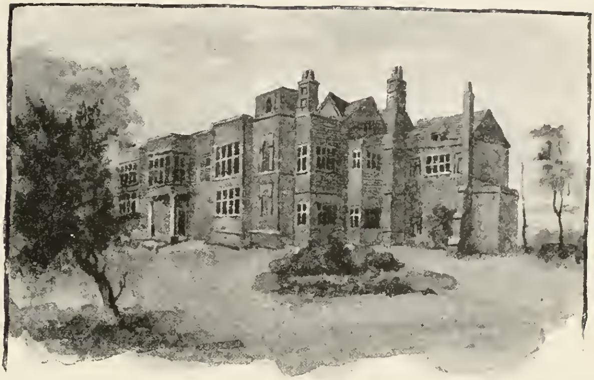
a peer for his daughter's husband, Hicks, going the other way about it, had his viscounty continued by a special remainder to his son-in-law. Lord Campden died in 1629, possessed at the time of enormous wealth, and endued with every virtue under the sun, to judge from the epitaph which Stow has preserved for us. After him came a long line of Noels, of whom the fourth, Viscount Campden, became the first Earl of Gainsborough. The Gainsboroughs remained at Kensington and acquired other lands in the parish besides those bequeathed by Sir Baptist. At length, in 1798, the sixth earl, Henry, died unmarried and childless. His titles became extinct, but his inheritance descended to a nephew whose history hardly concerns us, as Campden House had long before passed into other hands. However, it may be well to say that though there are still extant Noels who bear Gainsborough and Campden titles, they are descended from a very different stock in the male line. There was early in the last century a younger son born to the Duke of Hamilton; he was god-son to Queen Anne, and was known through life as Lord Anne Hamilton. This nobleman acknowledged the paternity of a young man commonly known as "Handsome Edwards," but whose full names were Gerard Anne Edwards. He married Lady Jane Noel, the eldest sister of the last Lord Gains-



ARMS OF THE NOEL FAMILY.



[illegible], KENSINGTON GORE.



OLD CAMPDEN HOUSE.

borough, and on her brother's death in Switzerland, under age, assumed the name of Noel. His descendants now represent the builder of Campden House. Such is the story as it has come down to us. But, as I have said, Campden House had gone away from the Noels long before. Baptist, third Viscount Campden, inherited it in 1643, and settled it, having in 1662 obtained an act enabling him to do so, on his fourth wife, Lady Elizabeth Bertie, for her life, and then on his heirs. It thus came to pass that Campden House, like Holland House, was closely concerned in the last royalist cause: and that eventually it became, as I venture to think, a kind of nursing mother to one of the greatest architectural artists we have ever had in England. Lord Campden lived here during the Commonwealth, although a committee of sequestrations sat in the house in 1645. He had to pay £9000 for his estates as well as £150 a year for leave to live in his own house. His father-in-law, the Earl of Lindsey, must have been frequently at Campden House, and among all the actors in the terrible tragedy of the king's death there are few who come out so well on the stage of history. We saw in the last chapter how the lord of the adjacent domain behaved at this crisis and with what a poor result. Lindsey, who, indeed, was the heir of the Veres, and was himself Lord Chamberlain, though his only footing in Kensington was as father-in-law of Lord Campden, must have frequently been at Kensington during his long and heroic life: Faulkner summarises it thus:—

"This nobleman, the eldest son of Robert Bertie Earl of Lindsey, was captain of the King's Guard in 1639, and waited on his Majesty in the expedition against the Scots. He was in the battle of Edgehill, 23d October 1642, and being near his father, and seeing him wounded and taken prisoner, voluntarily yielded himself a prisoner, in order to be near and attend him. Being afterwards exchanged, he resolutely adhered to the King's service, and commanded the Royal Guards in several battles. At that of Naseby he was wounded. At the treaty of the Isle of Wight, the King sent for him as one of the gentlemen of his bedchamber: and when it was evidently the intention of the party in power to put their sovereign to death, Lord Lindsey, with the Duke of Richmond, the Marquis of Hertford, and the Earl of Southampton, offered themselves as sacrifices for his Majesty's safety, as having been the advisers of all his measures. After the King's death, these noblemen obtained leave to attend his interment at Windsor, and pay the last sad offices to their unfortunate master."

Lindsey is in fact a most interesting character, and I am glad to be able to connect him with Kensington. He certainly lived up to the motto of his family, *Loyaulté me oblige*. His portrait as painted by Van Dyck represents him as a tall pale man, with reddish hair and a high Roman nose: and he is described by a contemporary as being "as plain in his soul as he was in his garb" (Doyle's *Official Baronage*). At the Restoration he received all the rewards the king could bestow, and became a K.G. in 1661. Like his ancestors the Veres, he was Lord Great Chamberlain by hereditary descent. Echard says of him, "After having received wounds at Naseby, and waded through an ocean of difficulties, he died in quiet, peace, and honour, at Campden House, Kensington, the 25th of July 1666."

His son-in-law Lord Campden survived till 1683, and his widow, no doubt, lived on here, but of this I have no record. He had entailed Campden House on his second son, Henry, who died five years before him, leaving by his wife, Elizabeth Wale, an only daughter, Jane Noel, who became the owner, and married Charles Boyle, Lord Clifford, who succeeded his father as second Earl of Burlington in 1698, and died in 1704. Meanwhile, Campden House was tenanted by an illustrious personage. This was the Princess Anne, sister of the reigning queen Mary, and wife of Prince George of Denmark. The one son who survived among the princess's numerous children, was William Henry, styled Duke of Gloucester. I have reprinted in a little volume the quaint biography left of him by his servant, Jenkin Lewis, and may extract a passage relating to Campden House, and a few paragraphs besides.

The duke was born on 24th July 1689, at Hampton Court, but was delicate from his birth. Lewis says :—

> "The summer being past, her Highness sought after a house near town, fit for his nursery ; and pitching upon Kensington, as a place of good air, she chose my Lord Craven's house, at Kensington gravel-pits, which his Lordship readily lent her for that purpose.
>
> "The young Prince continued there about twelve months, thriving apace ; and went out every day, when dry, in the afternoon, in his little coach which the Duchess of Ormond presented him with ; and oftentimes in the forenoon ; nor was the severity of the winter's cold a pretence for his staying within. The horses, which were no larger than a good mastiff, were under the guidance of Dick Drury his coachman. Lord Craven's House being thought too small for the Prince and Family, the Queen and Princess viewed Camden House, which Mr. Bertie, guardian to Mr. Nowell the heir thereof, taking advantage of, raised the rent so much, that it was imagined any other person might have purchased it for less than it cost the Princess, during the Prince's residence there.
>
> The first two years of his being at Camden House, he had no sickness; which proved as salutary in point of air as Lord Craven's house ; so that since he came from Hampton Court he had enjoyed good health."

In 1693 and 1694, the poor child seems to have suffered from ague, which yielded for the time to quinine. Lewis continues :—

> "In 1693 he grew very inquisitive, by asking what everything meant that he saw, and to throw off childish toys, saying he was then a man, calling himself a soldier. He liked to see the centinels when two years old, saying, *Dub-a-dub;* and would have the boys of Kensington, to the number of twenty-two, from the town to Camden House (accoutred with paper caps and wooden swords), a son of Sussex Caines, a messenger, leading them as their captain. Their appearance transported the Duke, so that he made them come up from the court to his presence room, and appointed one of them, a pretty boy, to be lieutenant, who proved to be Sir Thomas Laurence's son. Nothing pleased him but drums and arms, and stories of war, which when I perceived, finding his genius so bent, I

used frequently to tell him the stories of Alexander and Cæsar, and such renowned heroes of old. I gave my mind to the study of fortification, and whatever might make me acceptable to so lively a young Prince, whom I had the honour to wait upon every day. But whether I waited or not, I was constantly with him for three years, sometimes in my own turn, and frequently for my fellow-servants."

* * * * *

"The Duke went to Kensington, where his boys (which then formed two companies, amounting to ninety, armed with wooden swords and muskets, wearing red grenadiers' caps ; consisting of the Kensington boys, and a company from London, commanded by Mr. Saintlo, one of the Prince's pages) were ordered to the garden by beat of drums, for the King and Queen to see them exercise ; when the Duke told the Queen (who was very fond of him) that his mamma once had guards, but now had none ; which, it was said, surprised the Queen a good deal. The King ordered twenty guineas for the boys ; and took particular notice of one, six years old, by name William Gardner, remarkable for beating the drum, almost equal to the ablest drummer : to him the King gave two pieces of gold.

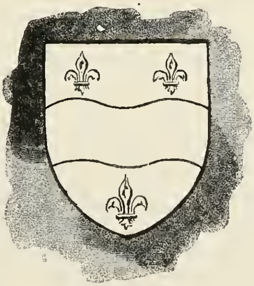
"The next day (being Sunday), we were informed that the King would come to visit him. He ordered us to get all his warlike affairs ready, consisting of a pasteboard fortification, mounted with small guns, and what were stiled his great ones, which were four little brass cannon, we were commanded to carry down, in order to be discharged by way of salute to the King upon his arrival. Just before his Majesty came, my Lady Fitzharding, and the gentlewomen, told him to be civil to the King, and thank him for coming to see him ; for it had been but seldom that the King came. He did not seem to mind what was said to him, as at this time he was wholly engrossed with a design of shewing the King that he was a soldier, and would first salute him in a soldier-like manner, and afterwards compliment him. My Lady Governess whispered him in the ear, to thank him ; but she did not prevail, till he had desired the King to give him leave to order me, who was in waiting (and then his chief engineer), to discharge his four cannon, who being well pleased, said he might, which I performed afterwards. He then talked to the King of horses and arms and thanked him of his own accord for the honour he did him in coming to see him. He told the King, that one of his cannon was broke : the King promised to send him some cannon, but never did : the Duke thanked him, and complimented him in these words—'My dear King, you shall have both my companies with you to Flanders,' where the King was to go soon after. The boys were ordered to come on holidays, and in the afternoon on Saturdays, when they were exercised by the Duke very often ; for he had now got the words, and could really judge pretty well whether they performed properly. Mrs. Atkinson, being at this time his chief gentle-woman, and favourite, who really took great care of him, ordered the boys victuals at one house or another at Kensington; but they were very rude; presuming upon their being soldiers; and would challenge men, and fall on many people as they came to and from Kensington to London, which caused complaints."

* * * * *

"Upon the King's return from Holland, October 1695, he came to visit the Princess at Camden House, when the Duke saluted him in the same way the officers of the Guards salute the Royal Family, with his pike, which the King was well enough pleased with, and asked him, if he had any horses yet? 'Yes,' replied the Duke, 'I have one live one, and two dead ones;' meaning the wooden horses that were to draw him upon; at which the King laughed; which enraged the Duke, who, when the King retired, gave orders to bury them out of sight; and in a short time after he made an Epitaph on his horse Ball, to be wrote on a stone, in these words:

'Here lies poor Ball,
Kill'd by a fall,
Under his General.'"

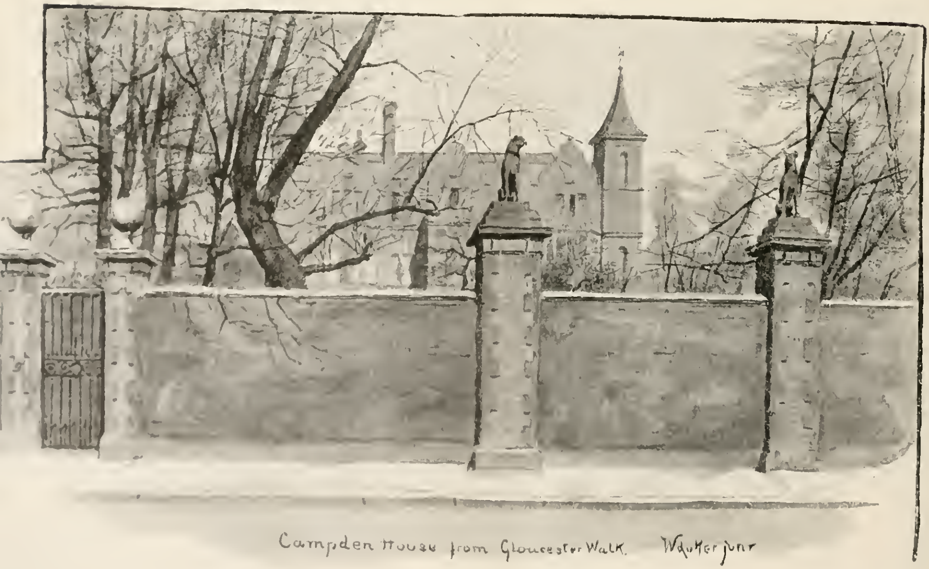
The little prince, who was never actually created Duke of Gloucester, died at Windsor of an illness which, from the description, seems to have been scarlet fever, aged eleven years and five days, 30th July 1700.


ARMS OF THE HICKS FAMILY.

We next find Campden House tenanted by Lady Burlington. She was left a widow in 1704, and immediately after seems to have taken up her abode here, with her only son, Richard, Earl of Burlington and Cork, Viscount Dungarvan, Baron Clifford and Clifford of Lanesborough, and Boyle of Youghal. What a string of titles for a boy of nine! But the reputation he acquired as an architect was entirely independent of his nobility and wealth. His modesty always let others claim the works which they carried out, even when all that was creditable in the design came from his own pencil. Walpole said of his career: "Never was protection and great wealth more generously and more judiciously diffused, than by this great person, who had every quality of a genius and artist, except envy." His conduct to Kent, the architect, was honourable to both. They continued friends through life, and lie buried in the same tomb at Chiswick.

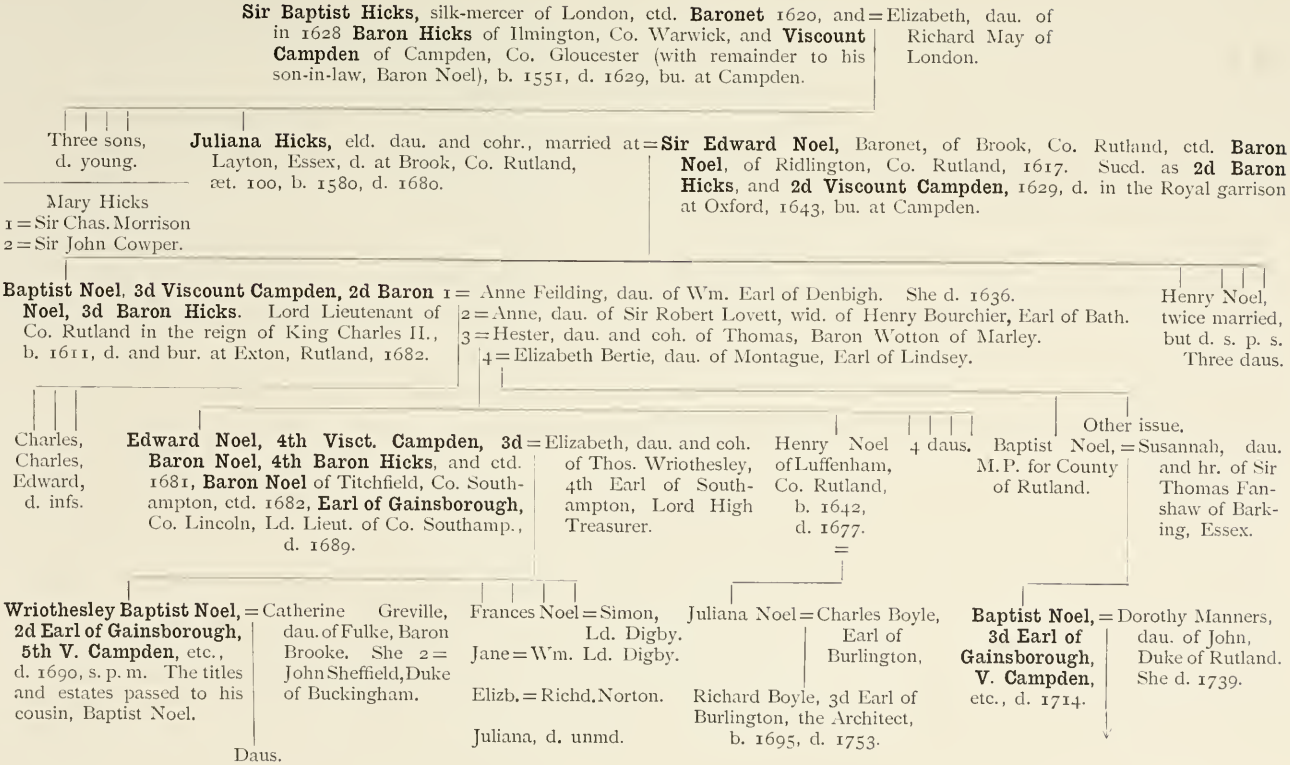
It may well have been that Lord Burlington acquired some of his remarkable taste in architecture from a contemplation during these years of growing boyhood of the beauties of Campden House. Perhaps, in accordance with Palladian taste, he admired more the addition westward, which Wren is traditionally said to have built for the reception of the suite of the Princess Anne, and which is now known as Little Campden House. It is certainly well proportioned; and the fine cornice and brackets give it, with its pediment, a dignity rather out of place in the subordinate situation it occupies.

In 1719 Campden House was sold by the Boyles, and with it the whole of the original Hicks estate. The buyer was Nicholas Lechmere, a barrister, who had been Solicitor-General and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. He shortly afterwards became Attorney-General, and in 1721 was raised to the Upper House as Baron Lechmere of Evesham, co. Worcester. He married Lady Elizabeth Howard, daughter



Campden House from Gloucester Walk. W Luker junr

Pedigree of the Families of Hicks and Noel of Campden House.



Sir Baptist Hicks, silk-mercer of London, ctd. **Baronet** 1620, and in 1628 **Baron Hicks** of Ilmington, Co. Warwick, and **Viscount Campden** of Campden, Co. Gloucester (with remainder to his son-in-law, Baron Noel), b. 1551, d. 1629, bu. at Campden. = Elizabeth, dau. of Richard May of London.

Three sons, d. young.

Mary Hicks
1 = Sir Chas. Morrison
2 = Sir John Cowper.

Juliana Hicks, eld. dau. and cohr., married at Layton, Essex, d. at Brook, Co. Rutland, æt. 100, b. 1580, d. 1680. = **Sir Edward Noel,** Baronet, of Brook, Co. Rutland, ctd. **Baron Noel**, of Ridlington, Co. Rutland, 1617. Sucd. as **2d Baron Hicks**, and **2d Viscount Campden,** 1629, d. in the Royal garrison at Oxford, 1643, bu. at Campden.

Baptist Noel, 3d Viscount Campden, 2d Baron Noel, 3d Baron Hicks. Lord Lieutenant of Co. Rutland in the reign of King Charles II., b. 1611, d. and bur. at Exton, Rutland, 1682.
1 = Anne Feilding, dau. of Wm. Earl of Denbigh. She d. 1636.
2 = Anne, dau. of Sir Robert Lovett, wid. of Henry Bourchier, Earl of Bath.
3 = Hester, dau. and coh. of Thomas, Baron Wotton of Marley.
4 = Elizabeth Bertie, dau. of Montague, Earl of Lindsey.

Henry Noel, twice married, but d. s. p. s. Three daus.

Charles, Charles, Edward, d. infs.

Edward Noel, 4th Visct. Campden, 3d Baron Noel, 4th Baron Hicks, and ctd. 1681, **Baron Noel** of Titchfield, Co. Southampton, ctd. 1682, **Earl of Gainsborough,** Co. Lincoln, Ld. Lieut. of Co. Southamp., d. 1689. = Elizabeth, dau. and coh. of Thos. Wriothesley, 4th Earl of Southampton, Lord High Treasurer.

Henry Noel of Luffenham, Co. Rutland, b. 1642, d. 1677. =

4 daus.

Baptist Noel, M.P. for County of Rutland. = Susannah, dau. and hr. of Sir Thomas Fanshaw of Barking, Essex.

Other issue.

Wriothesley Baptist Noel, 2d Earl of Gainsborough, 5th V. Campden, etc., d. 1690, s. p. m. The titles and estates passed to his cousin, Baptist Noel. = Catherine Greville, dau. of Fulke, Baron Brooke. She 2 = John Sheffield, Duke of Buckingham.

Daus.

Frances Noel = Simon, Ld. Digby.

Jane = Wm. Ld. Digby.

Elizb. = Richd. Norton.

Juliana, d. unmd.

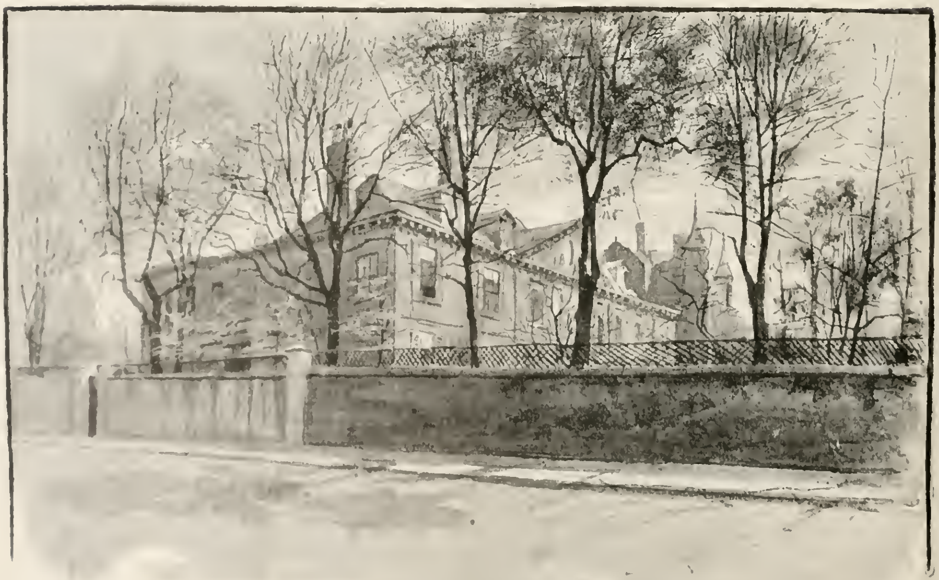
Juliana Noel = Charles Boyle, Earl of Burlington,

Richard Boyle, 3d Earl of Burlington, the Architect, b. 1695, d. 1753.

Baptist Noel, 3d Earl of Gainsborough, V. Campden, etc., d. 1714. = Dorothy Manners, dau. of John, Duke of Rutland. She d. 1739.

of the third Earl of Carlisle, but died without children in 1727, leaving "Campden House and a Chancery suit to his relations." The *Gentleman's Magazine* reports the conclusion of this suit in 1735, when Edmund Lechmere was decreed to be the heir. The house, which had probably been vacant and neglected all the time of the Chancery proceedings, was now sold, and the brief tenure of the Lechmeres came to an end. The whole of the estate, which comprised the long avenue down to the High Street, Campden Grove, a small park on the slope, and the gardens to the northward, was purchased by Stephen Pitt, who had married the daughter and heiress of a person named Orbell, in one of whose then newly-built houses it was that Sir Isaac Newton died, the same year as Lord Lechmere. Pitt cut off the old house from the new: broke up the little park, removed the gate pillars with their hounds, and set them up nearer the House, in 1798.

The Lechmere occupation procured for Campden House the honour of mention in a ballad by Dean Swift. It is called "Duke upon Duke," and was occasioned by a quarrel between



LITTLE CAMPDEN HOUSE.

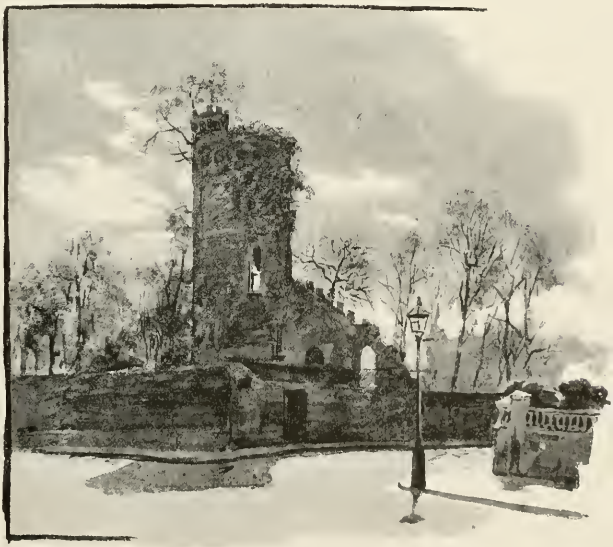
Lord Lechmere and Sir John Guise; it consists of thirty-seven stanzas, of which the following are a specimen:—

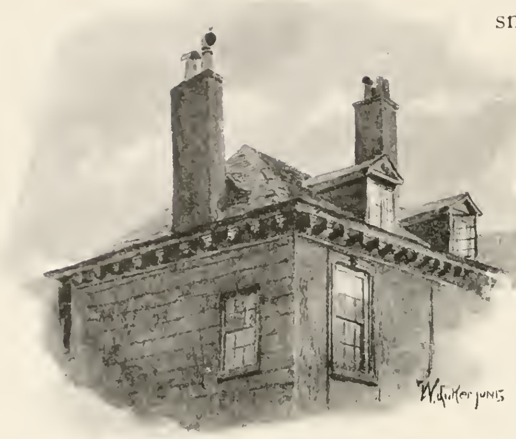
"Back in the dark, by Brompton Park,
He turned up thro' the Gore,
So slunk to Campden House so high,
All in his coach and four.

"The Duke, in wrath, call'd for his steeds,
And fiercely drove them on,
Lord! Lord! how rattled then thy stones,
O kingly Kensington.

"Meanwhile Duke Guise did fret and fume,
A sight it was to see,
Benumbed beneath the evening dew,
Under the greenwood tree."

Adjoining Campden House, as we have seen, on the western side, is a building now called Little Campden House, but formerly "The Elms," a name it sometimes exchanged with Campden House itself. It was built for the accommodation of the suite of the Princess Anne, and was afterwards occupied as a separate dwelling by the Duchess of Cumberland. When Pitt bought the estate he lived in this house himself, and let the older place to a Mrs. Stewart, who established what Faulkner calls "an eminent boarding school for young ladies," which subsisted for more than sixty years. It must have been at this time that the mock ruin, now at the corner of Sheffield Terrace, was


RUIN, SHEFFIELD TERRACE.



CORNER OF LITTLE CAMPDEN HOUSE.

made in the gardens. The smaller house is a good example of what may be called the Wren style, and has been the residence successively of many people of more or less eminence. After Pitt's time it was let to Sir Harry Calvert, an old general. Some years ago Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wigan, the well-known comedians, lived in it. It is now let to an eminent artist, and a kind of summer-house in the garden forms an admirable studio. The old house met with a sad fate. In 1862 it was entirely gutted by a fire, which some said was caused wilfully, for the sake of the insurance. A lawsuit ensued, in which the late Serjeant Ballantine was concerned, and I may refer to his amusing *Recollections* for further particulars. The damage done was irreparable. The armorial window glass, the panelling, the plaster ceilings, the mantelpieces of marble, all were destroyed.

Faulkner's description may be quoted :—

> "The entrance hall is wainscotted with veined oak, divided into small panels ; the chimney is on the east, being thus disposed to leave space for the arch leading to the great staircase.
>
> "On the right is a large parlour modernised, and the western side of this floor is occupied with domestic offices.
>
> "The great dining-room, in which King Charles II. supped with the Lord Campden, is richly ornamented ; the wainscot is finely carved, and the ceiling is stuccoed, and divided into compartments, in the centre are the arms of the Campden Family.
>
> "But the principal ornament of this room is the tabernacle mantel-piece, consisting of six columns of the Corinthian order, supporting a pediment,

the spaces between the pillars are filled with grotesque devices, the whole being supported by two human figures, curiously carved. This elaborate piece of workmanship is in the highest state of preservation, and a fine specimen of the sculpture of that period.

" The State Apartments on the first floor consist of a suite of three large rooms, facing the south.

"The first on the east is still called Queen Anne's bedroom, and has a handsome stuccoed ceiling, of a grotesque pattern, with pendants, and the walls are hung with red damask tapestry, in imitation of foliage.

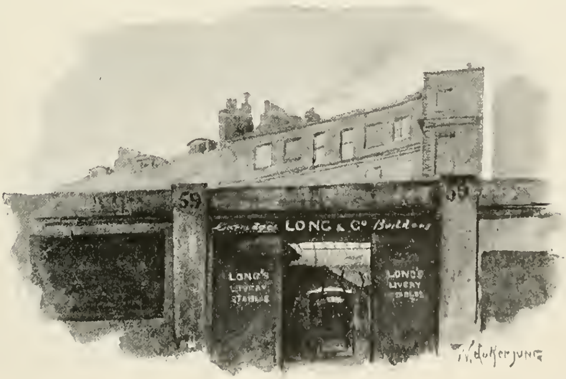
" The centre apartment is of noble proportion, with a large bay window, formerly filled with painted glass, representing the following arms, but the casement being in a ruinous condition, they have been removed.

"Sir Baptist Hickes, 1612, Gules a fesse wavy, between 3 fleurs de lis, or. Edward Lord Noel, Quarterly of six. 1. or, fretty gules, a canton ermine, Noel. 2. Gules, semée of cross crosslets fitchée and a lion rampant, or, Hopton. 3. Azure, semée of cross crosslets, argent, and three boars' heads couped, or, Hevyn. 4. Argent semée of cross crosslets, azure, and 2 organ pipes gules, Downton. 5. Barry of 6, or, and gules, St. Owen. 6. Azure, a lion rampant argent and a border engrailed, or, Tirrell impaling Hickes. Sir Charles Morison, or, on a chief, gules, three chaplets of the first, impaling Hickes.

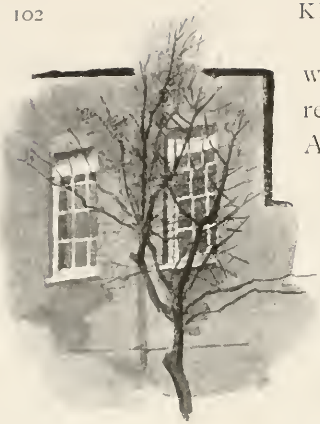
"The eastern wing on the first floor contains an apartment called the globe room, which appears to have been originally a chapel; it communicates with an elevated terrace in the garden, by a flight of stone steps, made it is said, for the accommodation of Queen Anne, during her Majesty's residence here.

" The adjoining apartment has an ornamented stuccoed ceiling, with the arms in the centre, and a mantel-piece of various coloured marble."

For some years the place lay desolate. On the great Ordnance Survey map made in 1869 it is marked "Campden House (ruins of)." When the Metropolitan Railway was constructed a tunnel was run through the grounds. The railway company



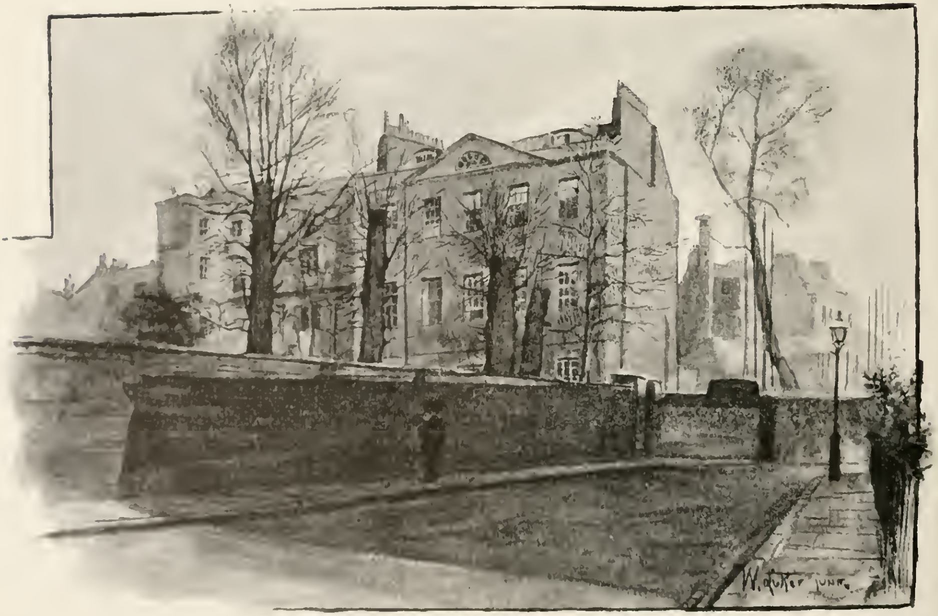
BULLINGHAM HOUSE (BACK).



WINDOWS OF THE ROOM IN WHICH SIR ISAAC NEWTON DIED

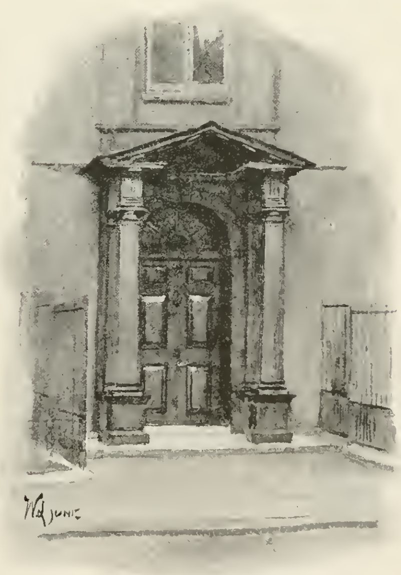
were well advised when they rebuilt or restored the house, and sold it to Mr. Alexander Elder, a gentleman connected with Australian trade. He kept it up well, and both house and gardens are in excellent order. The architect of the restoration somewhat injured the effect by the great curved gables with which he supplanted Sir Baptist Hicks's balustrade, and the back of the house is even more completely changed. Mr. Elder died in 1885, but his family still occupy the house.

Next to Campden House in situation, but much junior in age, is Bullingham House. It is now what its venerable neighbour was in Faulkner's time, "an eminent boarding-school for young ladies." When we enter the garden from Pitt Street we see that there are two distinct houses; one of them, to the

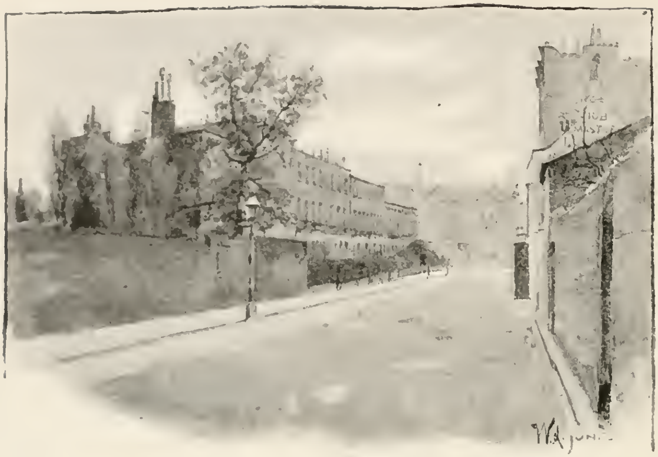

W. Luker Junr.

BULLINGHAM HOUSE.

north, appears slightly the older of the two, and has an eastward wing slightly projecting, from which a passage formerly opened on Church Street. The adjoining or southern house has greater architectural pretensions, and within is of more solid construction. Both have been much pulled about and altered at various times, and are now thrown together by passages through the walls. A chamber on the first floor of the southern house is traditionally pointed out as that in which Sir Isaac Newton died. It looks into the garden, that is, towards the west, and has two windows next the south-west corner. I cannot doubt that these two houses formed the "Orbell's Buildings" of which we read as the scene of Newton's last illness and death. He was admired and patronised both by Queen Anne and Queen Caroline, the wife of George II., and it is likely he was a visitor at the palace. It is odd to think that in his time, except a gardener's cottage, there was nothing but open fields and gravel-pits between Orbell's Buildings and the royal gardens. An article in the volume of the *Leisure Hour* for 1862 describes these houses as they were then, and gives us some interesting notes on Old Kensington. Stephen Pitt, the proprietor of the freehold of Campden House, married the daughter and heiress of Orbell, the owner of the copyhold lease of Orbell's Buildings. Both Orbell and, after him, Pitt were in the habit of paying the rates and taxes of their tenants, whence it is that we do not find Newton's name in the parish books, though he must at intervals have lived in Kensington for several years before his death in March 1727. Another house in the



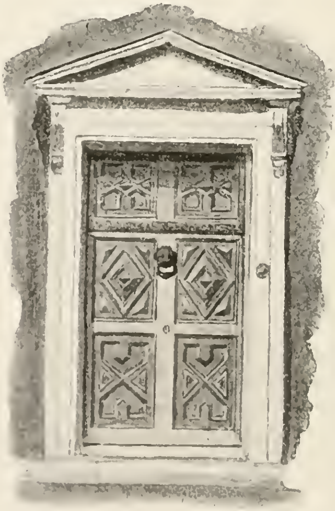
PORCH OF CRIPPLED BOYS' HOME.



WRIGHT'S LANE.

parish is associated with his memory, but if he ever lived in it no record has been preserved of the fact, and the name Woolsthorpe, which was that of Newton's birthplace, would seem to have been given to it in error. It was previously called Carmarthen House, and is in Wright's Lane, a road named after the builder, some of whose descendants were still to be found in Kensington twenty years ago.

Mrs. Pitt continued to live at Kensington, in what is now called Bullingham House, until she had attained a great age. She died while away from home in Somersetshire. After her death it seems that the northern part of Orbell's Buildings received the name of Newton, and a little later the southern end became Bullingham House, thus occasioning great confusion. A house in Vicarage Place was the original Bullingham House, but has long disappeared. The Bullinghams were an old Kensington family, one of whom, John, was appointed Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol in 1581 by

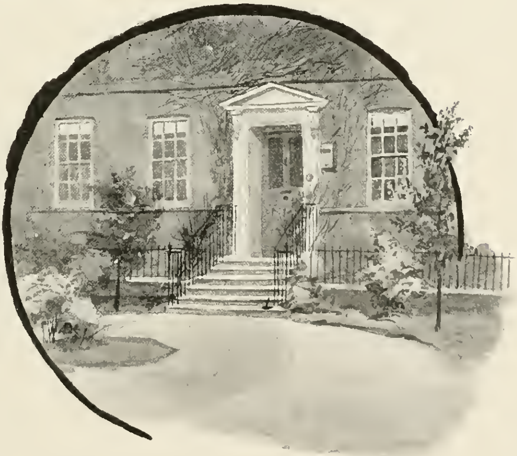


OLD OAK DOOR, BULLINGHAM HOUSE.

Queen Elizabeth. He died at Kensington on the 20th May 1598, and, according to the parish register, was buried in the church on the following day, but Le Neve (*Fasti*, i. 438) says he was buried in Gloucester Cathedral. The transfer of the names of these houses and others with which it is unnecessary to trouble the reader, has led to a certain amount of doubt and difficulty as to Sir Isaac Newton's residence. Miss Blair, who succeeded Mrs. Pitt in the house, gave the *Leisure Hour* writer precise information on the subject, and I have received the same from the present owner, Mrs. Leighton, to whom I am much indebted.

It may be worth while to add that Mrs. Orbell died in October of the same year, 1727, but her husband survived till 1734, when the estate went to Stephen Pitt and his wife. A Miss Anne Pitt, "Keeper of the Privy Purse to the Princess Dowager of Wales," was buried on the 15th February 1781 at Kensington, and may have been of the same family.

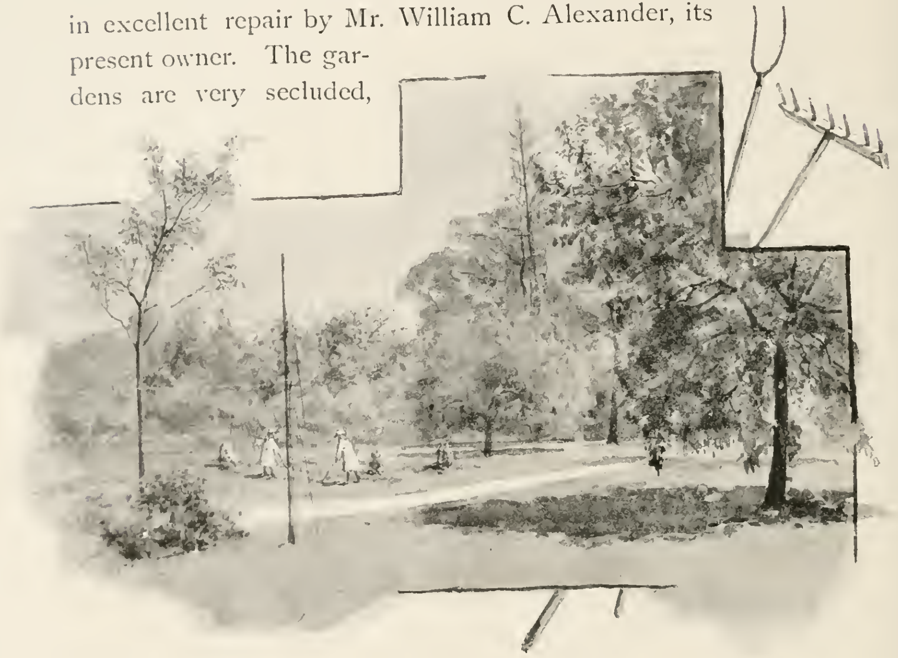
One other old house on Campden Hill is still standing. Although it is on the hill, perhaps as it is on the northern slope, and as it seems undoubtedly to represent the manor-house of Notting Hill, it should be differently described. It is, however, re-named, and the almost meaningless form "Aubrey House" conceals a very interesting fact. Another house, across the valley towards Kensal Green, claimed to be the manor-house of Notting Barns, or Knotting Barns, as it was often spelt. Whether a distinction should be made between Notting Hill and Notting Barns I cannot tell. The sale and division of the manor occurred so early that, though it is commonly stated that this or



PRESENT ENTRANCE TO BULLINGHAM HOUSE.

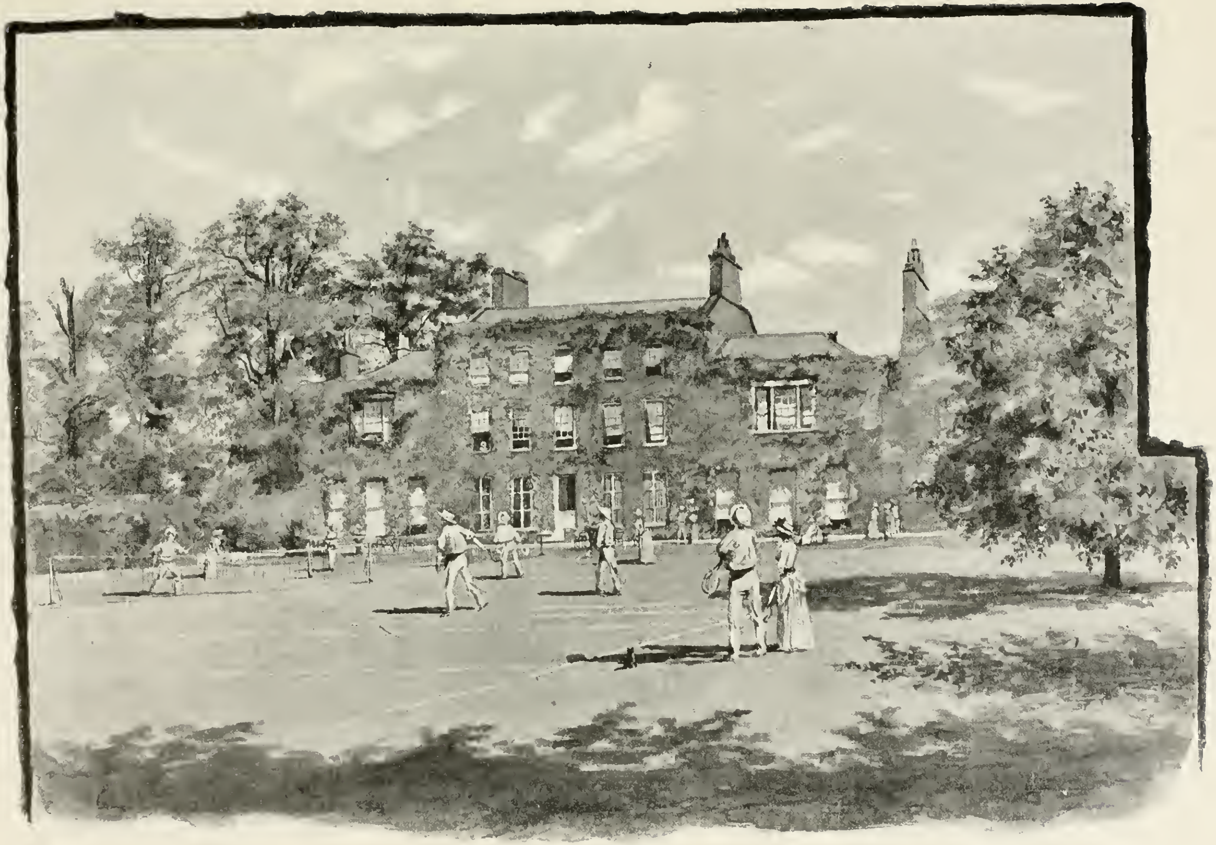
that personage was lord of the manor, there is, I think, nothing authentic as to its descent since the suppression of the monastic orders, at which time the Abbot of Westminster was lord of the northern division of the original manor of Kensington, as has been already pointed out.

Aubrey House has some old features about it, and is kept in excellent repair by Mr. William C. Alexander, its present owner. The gardens are very secluded, abutting on the west on Holland Park, and on the south on some of the gardens of "The Dukeries." Before Faulkner's time the place was occupied by George de Visme, and was celebrated for its chalybeate wells. There was some idea of establishing a spa, and the land was advertised for building purposes. It was then, some fifty years ago that is, the property of Sir Edward Lloyd, afterwards the first Lord Mostyn.



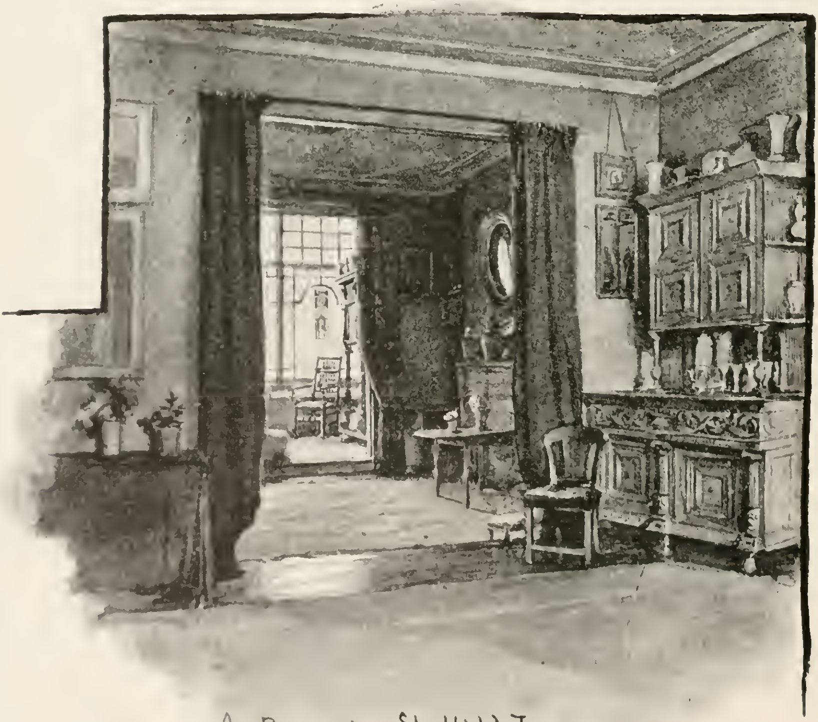
HAYMAKING, AUBREY HOUSE.

Another old house on Campden Hill was probably that bequeathed in 1617 by Jane Berkeley to Robert Sheffield, Esquire. Berkeley and Sheffield Gardens mark two sides of

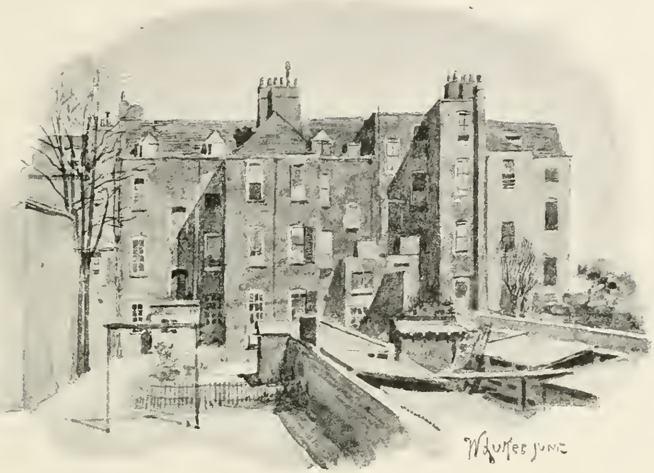


AUBREY HOUSE.

the site: but the house which last stood there was only built about the beginning of this century by Thomas Robinson, gardener to George III. It was still standing in 1847. The land was charged by Jane Berkeley — who, by the way, is always called "Lady" Berkeley in the parish records—with £10 a year to the poor. In 1724 it belonged to Robert Sheffield, who is said to have been uncle of John Sheffield, Duke of Buckingham. His daughter, Triphena, married John Morgan, of Kinsthorpe in Northamptonshire, and left an only daughter, Mary, who married Sir John Robinson, between whom and the vestry of the parish there was much discussion as to the payment of the annuity, which meanwhile accumulated until a sum of £200 was in hand. An agreement was made in 1744 by which Sheffield House passed to John Barnard and Thomas Callcott, on a long lease, and they built an almshouse with the



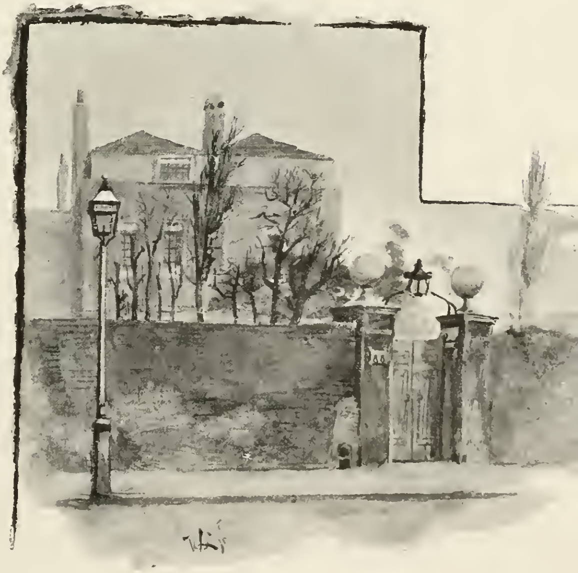
A Room in Sheffield Terrace—



BACKS OF OLD HOUSES, CHURCH STREET.

arrears, on part of the estate, on a lease of thirty-one years. Before the lease expired, Thomas Robinson, the King's gardener, had bought Sheffield House and grounds, and wanted to clear away the almshouses, which stood on the eastern side of Church Street. He paid to the vestry £200, their original cost, and was allowed to remove them, the site being covered by stables, which were rented by the late Duke of Sussex. He also rebuilt the house, which, says Faulkner, "is now (1820) occupied by Dr. Laing." "This house," he continues, "from its elevated situation, forms a conspicuous object in the county of Surrey."

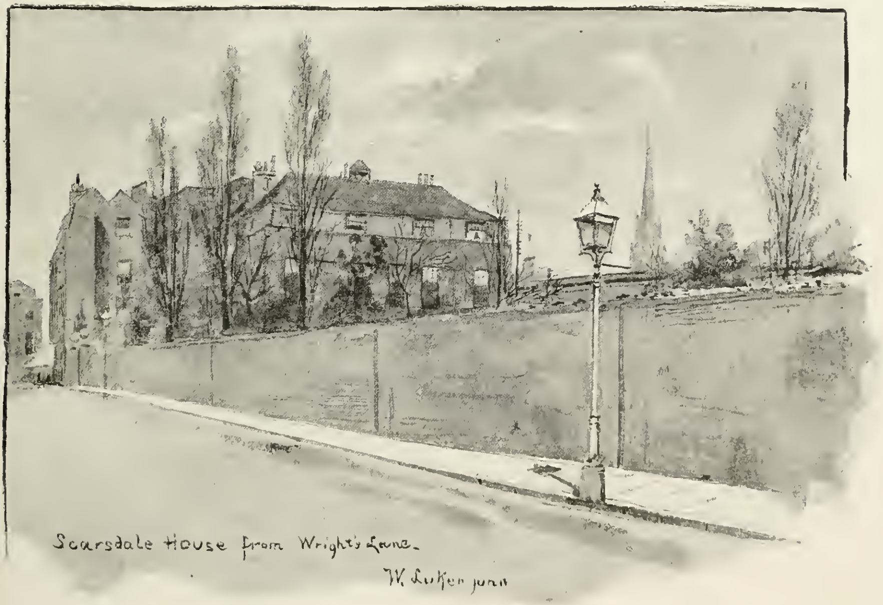
It was still standing



SCARSDALE HOUSE.

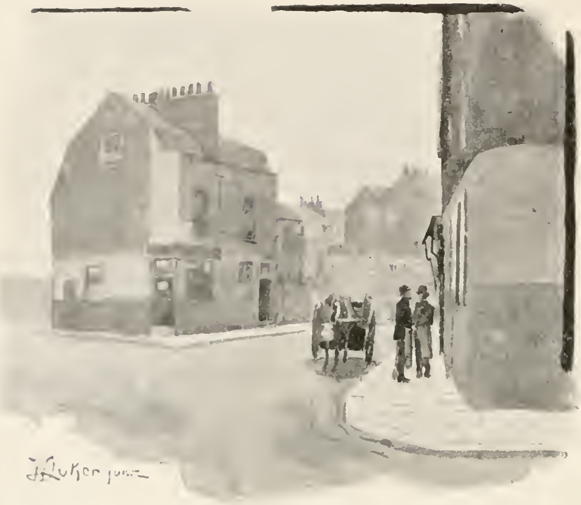
in 1847, but was soon afterwards removed, and Sheffield Gardens is the name of a row of houses running northward from Vicarage Gardens to Berkeley Gardens, and facing the old wall of the grounds surrounding Campden House, the side gateway of which, with massive brick buttresses, can still be traced, though much of the old work was removed in 1886. Through this gate, no doubt, the Duke of Gloucester would have passed on his way to visit the king his uncle at Kensington Palace; and there was probably a bridle road among the gravel-pits, between the vicarage and Sheffield House, which would lead direct to the gate of the palace.

Next in order comes Scarsdale House, near the corner of Wright's Lane, already mentioned. It has a very old-world look about it and must have been standing when Newton passed down this road to Woolsthorpe House, if, indeed, he ever went there. When we go along Wright's Lane now, it is almost impossible to believe that not thirty years ago Leigh Hunt described it as leading round a pleasant sequestered corner into the fields. In the seventeenth century,—I have not been able to ascertain the exact date, but it was probably, as Mr. Doyle suggests, in 1657—Nicholas Leake, second Earl of Scarsdale, married Lady Frances Rich, eldest daughter of the Earl of Warwick, and cousin, of course, of the Riches of Holland House. His father was that loyal old earl who, it is said, "became so much mortified" by the execution of Charles I. that he clothed himself in sackcloth, had his grave dug, and lay in it every Friday, exercising himself in pious meditations and prayer. Clarendon says of him that "he had a very unusual and unpleasant face." His wife was the aunt of Lucius Cary, Lord Falkland, killed at Newbury in 1643. The eldest son, Nicholas, may have built Scarsdale House, and have wished to live near his relatives at Holland House: but there were two later earls of the family, who figure rather in the scandalous chronicles of the time than in the Kensington parish books. It is not very easy to connect Scarsdale House with the Leakes. Faulkner attempts the task, but signally fails. There can be no doubt that the house was built about the same time as Kensington Square, late that is in the reign of James II. John Curzon, who founded it, and called it after the home of his ancestors in Derbyshire, had bought the land for the purpose of building on it. Like some of his descendants he was an Oriental traveller, and brought home one of those famous Arabians which were the progenitors of the modern race-horse. In 1713, the house was occupied by Lord Barnard, who had been created a peer by King William in 1698, and who was previously Sir Christopher Vane, and last surviving son of the celebrated Sir Harry Vane, beheaded in 1662. He died in 1723. A hundred years later we find Scarsdale House, like Campden House, a boarding school for young ladies: but for forty or fifty years past it has been continuously occupied by the Curzon family. It was purchased from his cousin, the late Lord Scarsdale, by the Honourable Edward Cecil Curzon, the second son of Mr. Robert Curzon and Lady de la Zouche, a peeress in her own right. Mr. Cecil Curzon died here in February 1885. He had greatly improved the house, and



Scarsdale House from Wright's Lane.

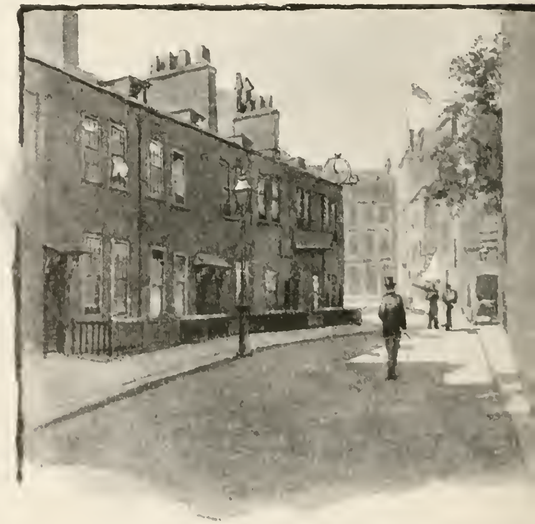
W. Luker junr



JAMES STREET, KENSINGTON SQUARE.

brought to it from Loseley the two interesting chimney-pieces, carved in alabaster, with allegories of Peace and War, which now adorn the drawing-room. There are several other fine mantelpieces in the house, and a noble oak staircase panelled throughout. It may be worth while to readers who like Mrs. Ritchie's charming stories to note that "The Church House" in her *Old Kensington* is drawn from this relic of former days in Wright's Lane, and that the blue tiled fireplace is in an upper room. A large garden extends southwards, and the site of a pond is still pointed out.

We may now turn eastward in our search for remnants of old Kensington. By King Street, or Young Street, both opening on the south side of the High Street, we reach Kensington Square. A pleasant little paper of only some thirty pages, printed for private circulation in 1883, and reprinted in a jubilee edition, 1887, is our best authority about the history of this place, a history which extends back two full centuries.



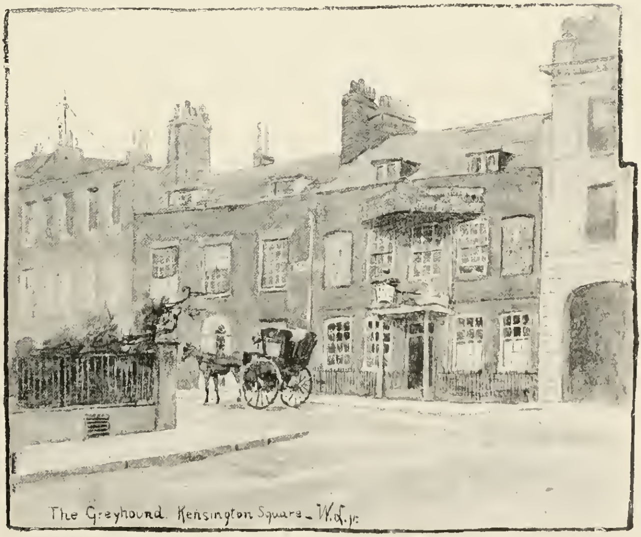
KING STREET, KENSINGTON SQUARE.

Before William III. came to Nottingham House, which was in 1689, "King's Square" had begun to exist: but, to judge from the names of the old streets to the south-eastward, parts of which have lately disappeared, James II., or his predecessor, was the king in whose time it was commenced. There is an old tradition that King Street and James Street were called after the king, but that Charles Street was called after Charles Hamston, the son of the carpenter who built it. A field opposite Charles Street, at the back of Lytham House, long the residence of Richard Ansdell, R.A., the animal painter, who died in 1885, used to be known as Hamston's Field. Here in 1804 or 1805 William IV., then Duke of Clarence, reviewed the Kensington volunteers. It is now a lawn-tennis ground. Jonathan Hamston was one of the first Commissioners of the Square under the Act of 1803. The new quarter south-east was commenced in 1840. Its chief thoroughfare is Victoria Road, finished as far as Clarendon Road by 1847, and finished to the church in 1851.

Young Street was built by Thomas Young who also built a great part of the Square. An inscribed stone was formerly on the face of the first house in Young Street, on the east side, —the same house, I think, in which the manorial courts were sometimes held,—and bore the initials—

M.
W. S.
Young Street
1685

W. M. S. probably referring to William Munden, senior, a barber surgeon and church

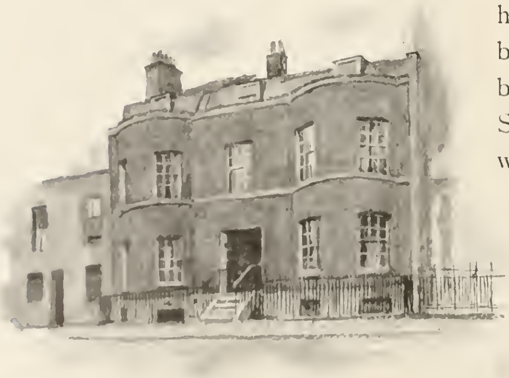


The Greyhound. Kensington Square – W.L.jr.

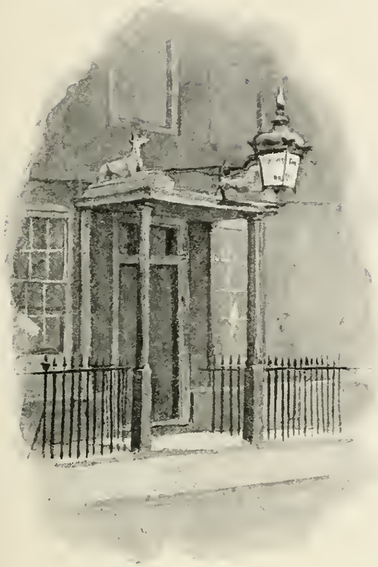
warden, who thus must have lived here as early as the year of James's accession. In 1713 he fixed a sun-dial on the south side of the Red Lion Inn, with the words "lose no time, A. R. William Munden." This dial is still in its place, and may be descried afar off by any one walking through the new quarter which has sprung up on the site of Jenning's Buildings and Kensington Court. The inn is frequently mentioned as the scene of parochial festivities.

Young Street is, literally, sacred to the name of Thackeray. He lived much of his life at 13, now, for some inscrutable reason, numbered 16, and probably to be renumbered before long, on account of the new "residential flats" which, just built, have done so much to alter the character of the street. The house, however, while it stands, cannot be mistaken on account of two bows with windows, rather than bow-windows, which mark the front on either side of the hall door. It was formerly described as "the Cottage in Young Street." Thackeray's daughter, Mrs. Ritchie, the writer of *Old Kensington* and other delightful novels, lived for some time nearly opposite, next door to the "Greyhound," then numbered 11, now, I think, 27.

Thackeray himself had sacred associations with Young Street. A very characteristic anecdote in Mr. Field's *Yesterdays with Authors*, shows this strongly. "I once made a pilgrimage with Thackeray (at my request of course the visits were planned) to the various houses where his books had been written, and I remember when we came to Young Street, Kensington, he said with mock gravity, 'Down on your knees, you rogue, for here *Vanity Fair* was penned: and I will go down with you, for I have a high opinion of that little production my-



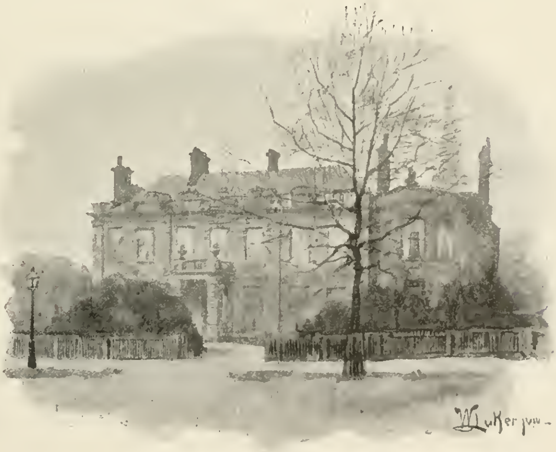
THACKERAY'S HOUSE, YOUNG STREET.



PORCH OF "THE GREYHOUND."

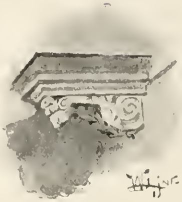
self.' He was always perfectly honest in his expressions about his own writings, and it was delightful to hear him praise them when he could depend upon his listeners. A friend congratulated him once on that touch in *Vanity Fair* in which Becky *admires* her husband when he is giving Steyne the punishment which ruins *her* for life. 'Well,' he said, 'when I wrote that sentence, I slapped my fist on the table and said, *That* is a touch of genius.'"

If I wanted an anecdote to illustrate the difference between just pride and mere vainglory, I do not think a better could be found than this, which we owe to an American author, as we do also the elaborate series of notes about Thackeray's successive residences which may be found in Mr. Laurence Hutton's *Literary Landmarks of London.* The books written in Young Street were *Vanity Fair*, *Pendennis*, *Esmond*, and portions of *The Newcomes.* He wrote *The Virginians* in Kensington, or rather Brompton, at 36 Onslow Square, which has also been renumbered: it was the fourth house, on the south side, from the corner by the church. Here also he wrote the *Four Georges.* In 1862 he

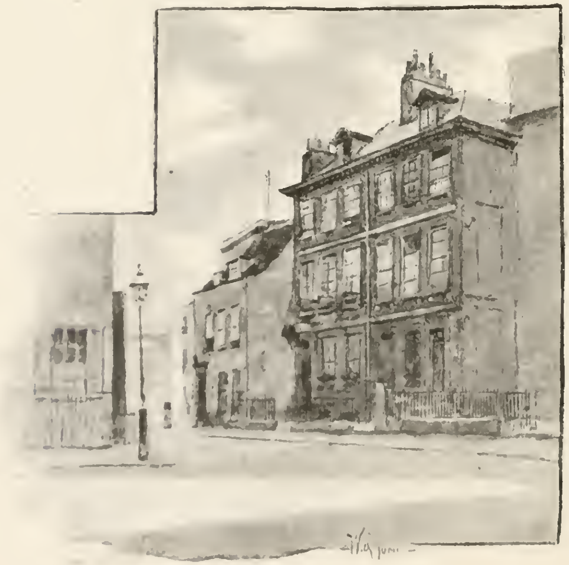


THACKERAY'S HOUSE, PALACE GREEN.

moved back to the neighbourhood of his old residence. This was to the house he had built himself in Palace Green, No. 2, the second house on the left after we enter the gates of Palace Gardens. The house, in avowed imitation of the Palace opposite, must always be looked upon as the first and earliest example of the so-called "Queen Anne style" of architecture, which, like so much else that is to be admired, we owe to the genius of Thackeray. In his new house, in which he took the greatest delight, he lived little more than a year. He died on Christmas Eve, 1863, and was buried at Kensal Green. "He was only," said Charles Dickens, "in his fifty-third year; so young a man that the mother who blessed him in his first sleep blessed him in his last." His house was altered in 1885, but only by the addition of a small wing on the north side. It belonged for a time to the adopted parents of a young man named Bravo, who came to a sad end at Balheim: and it subsequently became the residence of Mrs. Daglish. The references to Kensington, and especially to Young Street, are very frequent in Thackeray's books. We all remember "the Greyhound tavern, over against my Lady Castlewood's house in Kensington Square," and there may be an intentional allusion to the house he had lived in when he says (*Virginians*, ii. 69), "How bitter, how melancholy, how absurd, to look up



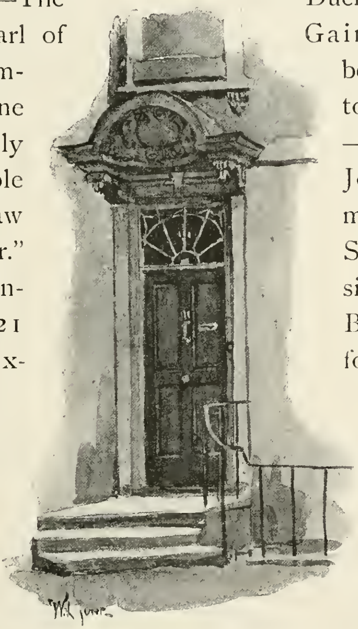
BRACKET,
NO. 11 KENSINGTON SQUARE.



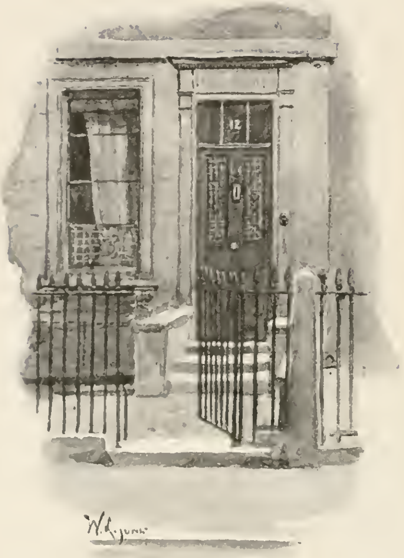
[illegible] KENSINGTON SQUARE.

as you pass by No. 13, and see somebody else grinning out of window, and evidently on the best terms with the landlady." Why No. 13, if not No. 13 Young Street, where he had lived so long?

We have delayed in Young Street, with Thackeray, but the Square must be reached at last. From its very first foundation in the first year of James II., it has been inhabited by people of eminence. The court brought them first, and it is stated that the south side was called the "King's Parade." We read in parochial and other records of such great folks as these:—The Duchess of Mazarin in 1692, the Earl of Gainsborough in 1697—we remember that Campden House had gone to another branch of the Noel family—and in 1711 the Right Honourable Joseph Addison, who here "saw much of Swift, who was his neighbour." Swift had lodgings in 1712 at Kensington Gravel-Pits. In 1721 Bishop Hough, successively of Oxford, Lichfield, and Worcester, had "a grand old brick house, with large windows, and full of fine oak staircases and carvings." It stood where the convent is now, at the south-western corner. There is much about this great prelate late in Macaulay's *History of England.* He left Kensington in 1732. The Marquis of Montgomery lived in No. 45, now Mr. Merriman's. The coach-house, stables, and cottage extended to Young Street, the last named being the No. 13 of which we have already said so much. The Marquis of Montgomery is really the Marquis of Powis, who was Lord Montgomery, and after the death of his father, William Herbert, whom James II. made Duke of



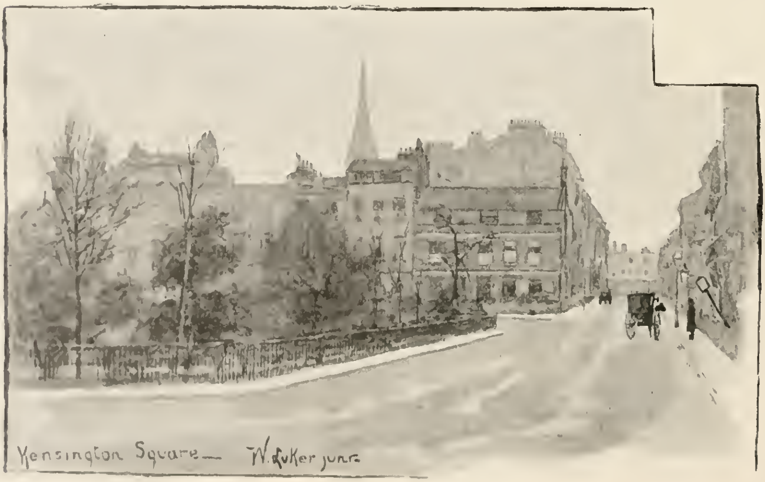
DOOR, NO. 11 KENSINGTON SQUARE.

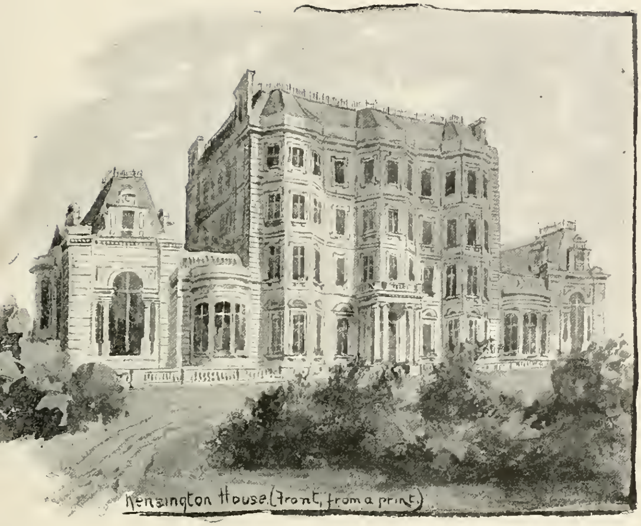


DOOR OF NO. 12 KENSINGTON SQUARE.

Powis in 1689, the year of exile, he was summoned to Parliament as Marquis of Powis in 1722. That he should have been still called Marquis of Montgomery, the courtesy title he may have assumed when his father was created a Duke, is worth noticing. Archbishop Herring, of York, and afterwards of Canterbury, had a house at the south-eastern corner of Kensington Square when he was Bishop of Bangor, in 1737.

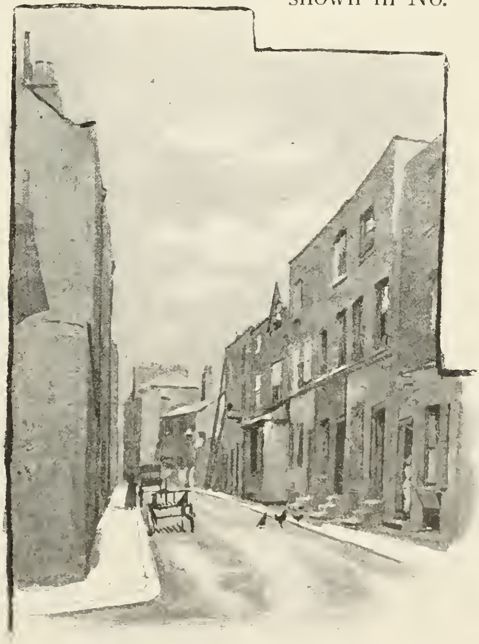
Several foreign ambassadors seem to have lived in Kensington Square about this time. Among the entries in the parish register is one on the 28th April 1700, of the burial of "A servant, from the Dutch Embassador's, in the Square." In 1717 it is "The Dutch Envoy's Lady," 17th January. Prince Talleyrand was in Archbishop Herring's former residence in


Kensington Square — W. Luker junr.



Kensington House (front, from a print)

1793, but not as envoy. There are double eagles carved among the decorations of No. 30, the house of Mr. Arthur Roberts, which may perhaps be referred to some foreign diplomatist. Nos. 36 and 37 were originally one house, inhabited it is said by Talleyrand. The old door, iron plated, is in No. 37, and a secret chamber is in the drawing room. A hiding place is also shown in No. 11, which with its next neighbour formed a single house, and is the only one in the square which retains its original appearance.



JAMES STREET, KENSINGTON SQUARE.

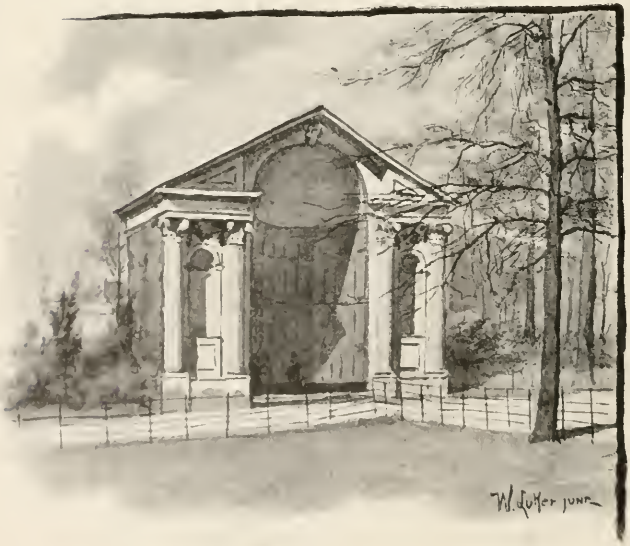
In the last generation Kensington Square was the place of abode of, among others too numerous to mention, Nassau Senior, who lived at No. 32 in 1826, and afterwards, if I mistake not, in one of the houses on Butt's Field. John Stuart Mill was at No. 18 in 1839. The celebrated Dr. James Veitch lived at No. 33 for six years from 1841.

More recently, the lamented John Richard Green, the historian of the English people, spent his last summers in No. 14. He went from here to Mentone, where he died, in the autumn of 1882.

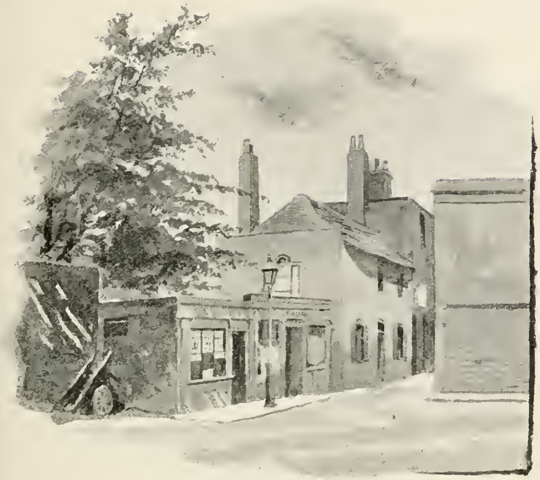
Mr. Edward Burne Jones, A.R.A., lived in No. 41 for three years before 1867.

The Greyhound Inn is mentioned in *Esmond.* It belongs to Messrs. Combe the brewers, and its title-deeds reach back to 1686.

All good inhabitants of Kensington rejoiced, I think, when it was decreed that Kensington House was to be razed to the ground in 1882. It occupied the site of two very picturesque old buildings, Colby House and Kensington House, and the grounds as laid out by Mr. Grant obliterated the wretched quarter known as Jenning's Buildings to the southward, and extended to Kensington Square on the west. The old houses were of the same period as the square itself and the palace. The most easterly was at first the property of the Noel family, one of whom may have built it: but was occupied for a time by the Duchess of Portsmouth, and was used for many years of the last century as a school. James Elphinstone, the head-master, is commemorated by a tombstone in the church-

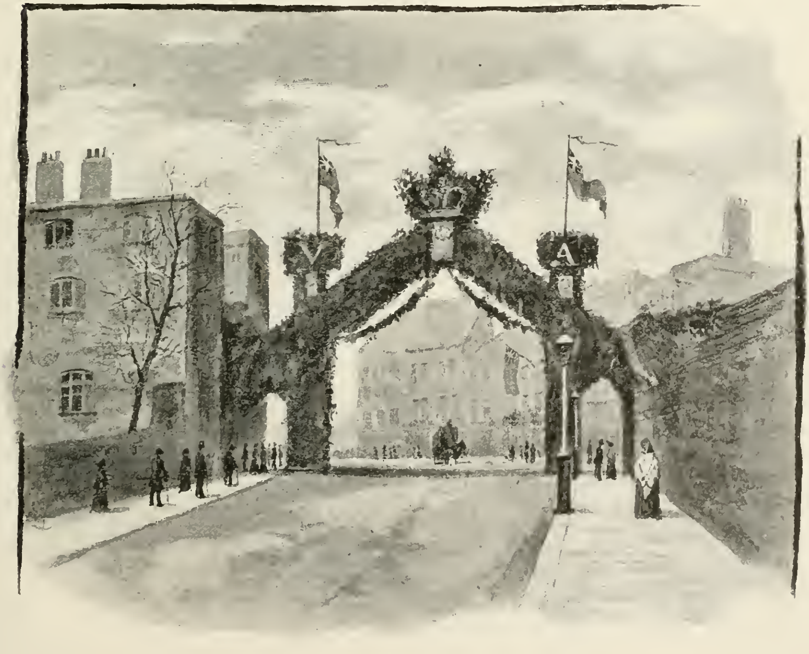


THE ALCOVE.



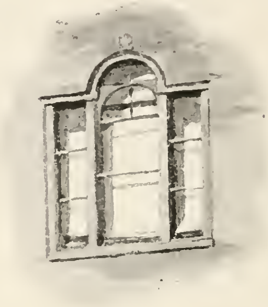
IN CHARLES STREET, KENSINGTON SQUARE.

yard and a tablet in the south porch ; he died in 1809, and as he reckoned Jortin, Johnson, and Franklin among his friends, we must believe he deserved the praise there bestowed upon him ; but Smollett made fun of him in *Roderick Random*, and had probably reason for doing so, though it is not easy to say which of the characters in the novel was supposed to resemble him. He made an extraordinary translation of Martial, and was one of the originators of the scheme of phonetic spelling, which crops up at short intervals ever since but does

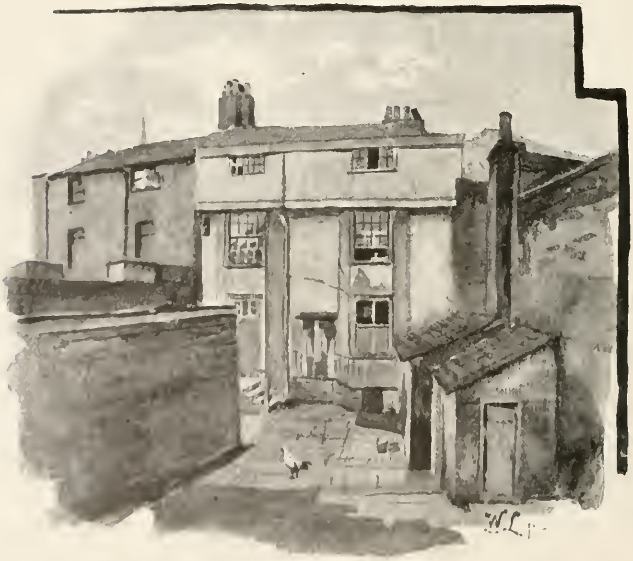


ARCH ERECTED AT THE QUEEN'S MARRIAGE, AT KENSINGTON GATE.

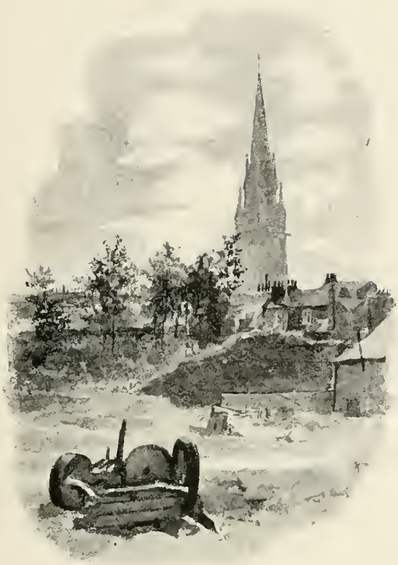
not seem to make much way. After Elphinstone's time the house was turned into a Jesuit school by some French emigrants, “Pères de la Foi” as they called themselves. Richard Lalor Sheil, the great Irish orator, was educated by them, and left an interesting account, often quoted, of the place as he remembered it. We can call up with his help the large iron gate whose wrought rusty flowers twined into the monogram of some great personage who had lived here; exactly opposite we see the avenue leading to the palace and the beautiful garden in front. The large old-fashioned house is full of the remains of decayed splendour. There is a beautiful walk at the back through the school playground. The head of the establishment, the Prince de Broglie, sits in a chamber covered with faded gilding which had once been richly tapestried. The future Charles X. here visited the Abbé-prince, and Sheil mentions the Duke de Grammont and other magnates of the exile. It was probably at this time, if ever, that the open-air mass was sung according to tradition, in the Alcove, now removed, which stood just opposite Kensington House within the gardens. Again a school, afterwards tenanted by Mrs.



OLD WINDOW IN CHARLES STREET, KENSINGTON SQUARE.



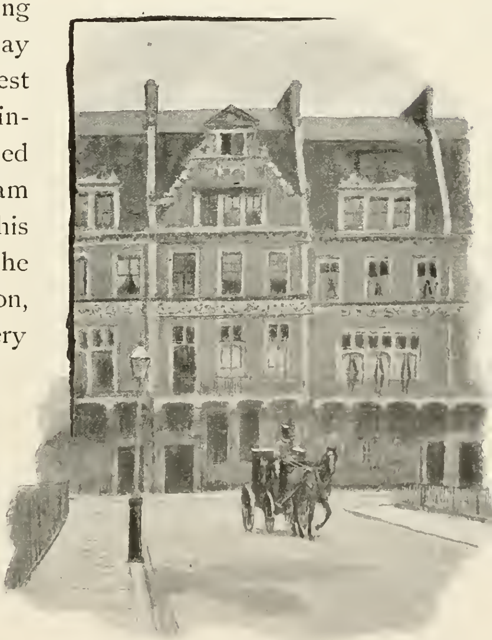
BACK OF THE “KING OF PRUSSIA,” HIGH STREET, KENSINGTON.

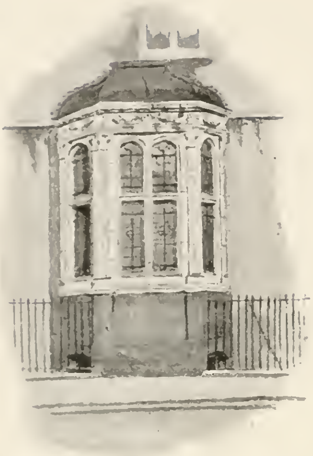


KENSINGTON COURT ESTATE.

Inchbald, author and actress, who died here, as it was said, of tight-lacing in 1821, and Kensington House became "Little Bedlam," and so continued till it was finally destroyed to make way for Mr. Knowles's palace.

Colby House stood close by, a little nearer the High Street. It was handsomely built and decorated by Sir Thomas Colby in 1720. The name appears frequently for several generations in the parish books; and Sir Thomas himself is the hero of one of King's *Anecdotes.* He is said to have been killed by rising in the night to look for the key of his cellar lest his servants should rob him of a bottle; a sudden chill caused his death, and the £200,000 he had accumulated in the Victualling Office went to "five or six day labourers who were his nearest relatives." This is probably incorrect, as his property descended to the Bullock family of Shipham in Norfolk, the children of his maternal aunt. A plan of the house is in the Crace collection, and Faulkner says that the gallery contained forty portraits of the Kit Kat Club. In his time it was inhabited by a county magistrate, William Mair. I have been told that it had the reputation, before it was pulled

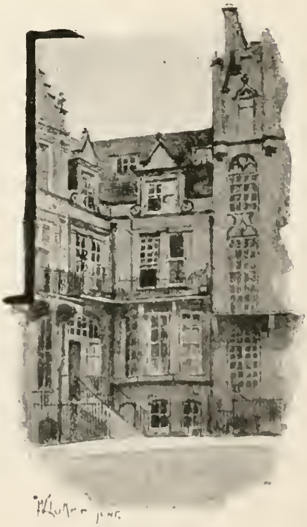



BAY WINDOW, NO. I KENSINGTON COURT.

down in March 1873, of being haunted.

The other demolitions carried out in the same year affected a wretched quarter which Leigh Hunt describes at some length. In the opinion of many people the destruction of Colby and Kensington Houses was more than redeemed by the simultaneous eviction of the inhabitants of the Rookery in Jenning's Buildings, Russell's Place, Tavern Yard, and New Court. Mr. Grant finally got rid of them in April 1873, partly by offering them an easy lease in new industrial dwellings at Notting Hill, and partly by allowing those who went to carry away the wood-work of their houses. In a short time "stairs, flooring, beams, and even the walls and roofs had disappeared."

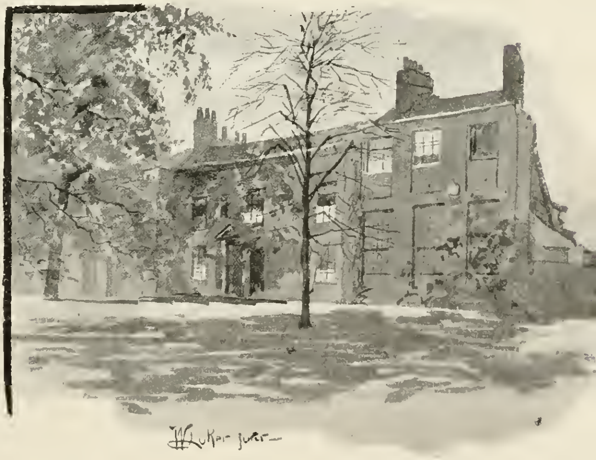
The new house speedily rose in all its hideous magnificence, surrounded by grounds so large that they might be called a park. Conservatories, arbours, lakes, Swiss chalets, and innumerable varieties of trees, shrubs, and flowers, seemed to grow up as if by magic. Yet withal there was no sign of that subtlety which may be called taste; everything seemed to claim admiration not because it was beautiful but because it was costly. The house was designed in such a way that each side matched the other; and if you admired a marble chimney-piece in the western wing you could by opening the intervening doors admire its exact counterpart in the eastern wing. A splendid collection of pictures was purchased at Christie's for the gallery, and furniture, marble, gilding, bronze, silken hang-


A CORNER IN KENSINGTON COURT.

ings, in short, everything, except, as I have said, common good taste, were lavished upon the interior. Yet I do not know that it was ever inhabited. The owner got into commercial difficulties: Kensington House descended to the position of an asset. The pictures and other moveable contents were sold; attempts were made to let the place. They never succeeded. Whether it was too big or too costly, or perhaps too ugly, nobody took it, and before it had stood ten years it was pulled down. I remember the sale in September 1882, when, among other things, five pairs of monolithic Italian marble Corinthian fluted columns, twelve feet six inches high, fetched but 74 guineas a pair, and the staircase which had cost thousands was sold for £480. The porch consisted of six polished granite columns and sold for £140. Everything went at a similar rate, and the mansion which is said to have cost somebody £250,000 was finally disposed of for £10,461.

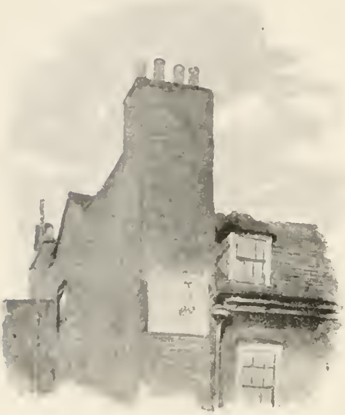
Since then, under the artistic care of Mr. John Stevenson, who has designed most of the houses, Kensington Court has become a kind of museum of beautiful buildings. The first house on the left as we enter is by Mr. Jackson of Oxford, and is an attempt to apply moulded terra-cotta in the style of Layer Marney or Sutton Place, from one or other of which old Tudor mansions all the details are imitated. The other houses are, as I have said, chiefly by Mr. Stevenson, and are in a later style. About half the available space has now been covered, and the buildings abut at their southern end on Hamston's Field.

But one other monument of Old Kensington remains to be noticed. This



OLD CROMWELL HOUSE, SOUTH KENSINGTON.

is Hale Hall, always pointed out by tradition as the residence of the Cromwells. It has almost, if not quite, disappeared under the South Kensington Museum, but many of us remember its not very lovely south front among the trees near the entrance from the Brompton Road.



CORNER OF THE RED LION INN.

There certainly were Cromwells in Kensington at different times: but I cannot localise any of them at this south-eastern corner of the parish. A Robert Cromwell was of Kensal Green in 1691: and does not seem to have been a well-behaved person. For certain of his misdoings the parish registers may be consulted; and Faulkner (p. 371) informs us that one of this name was "a juryman on the trial of Daniel Axtell, one of the regicides, and challenged by him." Faulkner concludes that this was the same Robert Cromwell: but as there were nearly thirty years between the trial and the wrong done to Jane Saville, it seems unlikely. Of his rank we gather something from another note. In 1700 there is an entry of the burial of "Mary Cromwell, wife of Mr. Cromwell, farmer."

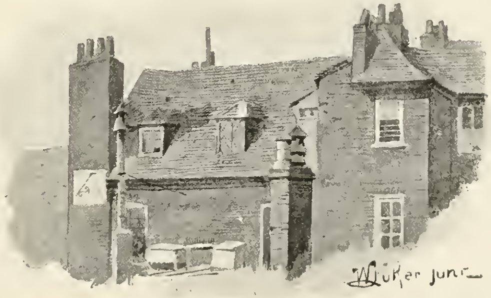
The name also appears in the Marriage Register. On the 10th May 1653, Henry Cromwell was married to Elizabeth Russell. It has never been doubted that this Henry Cromwell was the son of the Protector, who subsequently governed Ireland under his father. His bride was the daughter of Sir Francis Russell, of Chippenham in Cambridgeshire, a devoted adherent of Oliver Cromwell, and one of those designated for his House of Lords. The Russells were further connected with the Cromwells and with Kensington, for the eldest son and successor of Sir Francis, John Russell, married Elizabeth Cromwell, the Protector's daughter, and widow of Robert Rich, eldest son of the third Earl of Warwick, by whose death without children the succession to the Warwick title was opened to the Earl of Holland.

These, so far as I have been able to ascertain, are the only occurrences of the name of Cromwell in our parochial records; but tradition will have it that the great Oliver himself lived for a time at Hale Hall: and we can neither accept nor reject it. The purchase of a small estate with money said to be Cromwell's gift, will be mentioned in a later chapter.

It will be remembered that Oliver Cromwell's family had formerly gone by the name of Williams. There is no doubt that Richard Williams settled in Kensington, where he had some land in the Earl's Court Manor and the Red Lion Inn in the High Street, at the beginning of the sixteenth century. Further particulars of his career and connections may be seen in the *Parish Magazine*, 1883, p. 131. It will be sufficient here to say that his mother was Mary Smith, of Mortlake, first cousin of Walter Cromwell, whose son was the unfortunate minister of Henry VIII.: and that his brother was the Morgan Williams, or John Williams, who is said, upon uncertain evidence, to have married a sister of the Earl of Essex, and to have changed his name to Cromwell. What we may be certain of is that Morgan Williams was the paternal ancestor of the Protector.

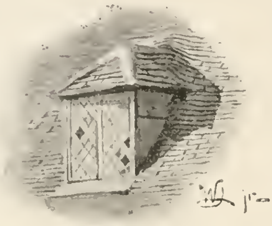
To return to Hale House; we may quote the judicious words of Faulkner:—

"The tradition respecting the residence of Oliver Cromwell seems to be very strong and universal, and it would have afforded the historian sincere pleasure to have been able to confirm an opinion so prevalent, but, unfortunately, all the documents which he has consulted, both parochial as well as private, seem to show that there is not the least foundation for this conjecture."



THE RED LION INN, HIGH STREET, KENSINGTON.

The house and some twelve acres of land—the same on which the South Kensington Museum now stands—were part of an estate not exceeding thirty acres, which were reserved to the heirs of the old earls when the rest of the Earl's Court Manor was sold to Sir Walter Cope in 1609.


RED LION INN: THE OLD WINDOW.

This manor it will be remembered was settled on the co-heirs of John, the fourteenth Earl of Oxford. They were Elizabeth, who married Sir Anthony Wingfield; Dorothy, who married Lord Latimer; and Ursula, who was twice married but left no children. Sir Robert Wingfield, the son of Sir Anthony, sold his share of the manor to his cousin Lucy Nevil, daughter and co-heiress of Lord Latimer. She married Sir William Cornwallis, and their daughter, Anne, carried the estate to her husband, Archibald, seventh Earl of Argyll. In 1609 Lord and Lady Argyll had license to sell it to Sir Walter Cope, all but Hale House and the adjoining farm, which were thus separated from the old manor of the Veres.

The subsequent history of the place may be quoted from Faulkner:—

> "In 1612, Archibald Earl of Argyll, and Sir Wm. Cornwallis, proprietors of 'all that capital messuage or tenement, with the appurtenances, called Hale House,' sold it to Wm. Weddell, of London, gent., and others, in consideration of the sum of £80, together with various closes of land, being parcel of the manor of Earl's Court, all in the occupation of Sir Wm. Blake. He, having purchased this property, died seized of it in 1631. The whole of which appears to have been held, in capite, by one hundredth part of a knight's fee, and valued at £5 per annum. William Methwold, Esq., purchased it of the executors of Sir William Blake, and died here in 1652, and, by his will, bequeathed sixteen acres of land for the maintenance of the poor in the adjoining almshouses, which he had founded. In 1668, Hale House was inhabited by the Lawrences of Shurdington, in Gloucestershire. In 1682, it was in the occupation of Francis Lord Howard of Effingham, whose son Thomas, the sixth Lord Howard of that family, was born here. In 1754, it was sold by the

Methwold family, to John Fleming, Esq., afterwards created a baronet, and it is now the property of the Earl of Harrington, who married one of the daughters and co-heirs of Sir John Fleming."

A portion of the estate had been alienated to a family named Goodfellow, who, like Methwold, was a benefactor to the parish. Faulkner continues :—

"*Cromwell Gardens* were a favourite place of public resort, many years previous to the opening of Florida Gardens; Mr. Hughes, who built the Surrey Theatre, used to exhibit here his feats of horsemanship in the open air. The adjoining almshouses, situated in the lane leading from Brompton to the town of Kensington, and endowed by Mr. Methwold, have lately been repaired, and are now tenanted in strict conformity to the will of the founder.

"A conduit stood near this spot, which is frequently mentioned in old deeds, but I have not been able to ascertain its site, nor does any vestige of it remain."

It is odd that Faulkner should make no mention of Edmund Burke. He took Hale House for his son, Richard Burke, who was ill, in 1794. The physician who attended the young man soon saw that there was no hope, and told the unhappy father, who "abandoned himself to the desperation of despair." "His," he cried, "was a grief which would not be comforted." Richard Burke, who, as every one remarked except his fond father, was a very unpromising, and, indeed, unamiable person, died in Cromwell House 2d August 1794, aged 36.

The following passage from Faulkner describes the house before it was dismantled :—

"Hale House, commonly called Cromwell House, has undergone great alterations, only one room remaining in its ancient state, which is ornamented with painted Dutch tiles, resembling flower-pots, and is still in good preservation.

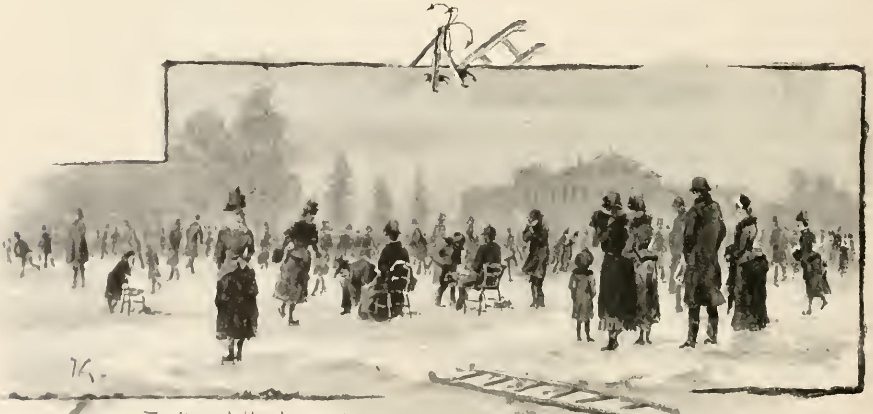
"The principal door has a projecting porch, supported by two wooden pillars, and the door-case is ornamented with military trophies and costume of the seventeenth century well executed.

"Over the door is placed a capital bust of Charles II., apparently a copy from that in the centre court of Chelsea Royal Hospital.

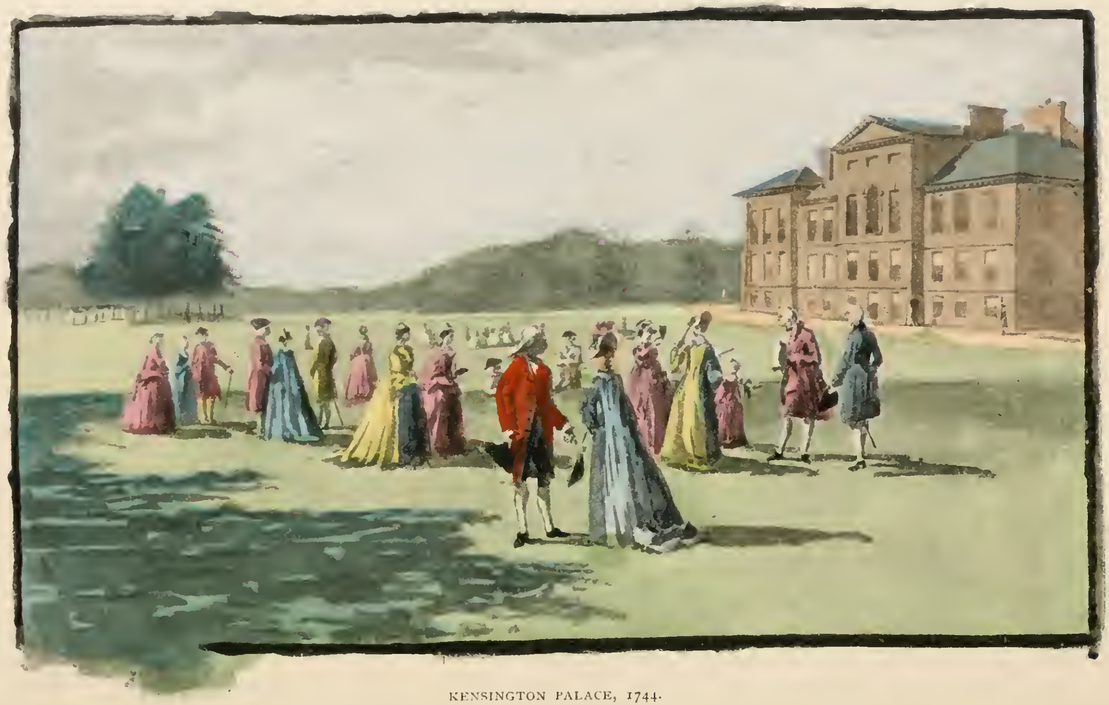
"The house and premises are at present unoccupied, and present a

> dilapidated and desolated condition. Formerly the whole was surrounded with a wall and chevaux-de-frieze, and battlements, resembling a fortified place, part of which still remain on the east side, opening into Mr. Kirke's garden.
>
> "Over the mantel-piece there is a recess, formed by the curve of the chimney, in which it is said that the Protector used to conceal himself when he visited this house; but why his Highness chose this place for concealment, the tradition has not condescended to inform us. This recess is concealed by the wainscot, and is still used as a cupboard."

From Hale House the old Gore Lane and the old Love Lane wound up towards Kensington. At the place where Love Lane led into Hogmore Lane, now the Gloucester Road, was a tavern known as the Devil Inn: and the corner itself was called Hell Corner. Whether, as seems likely, this was only a corruption of "Hale Corner," and the presence of the sign an accident, I do not know; but taverns were not unfrequently named after "the Devil and St. Dunstan," the attribution not being complete without the saint who was the patron of metal-workers.



The Round Pond—winter—



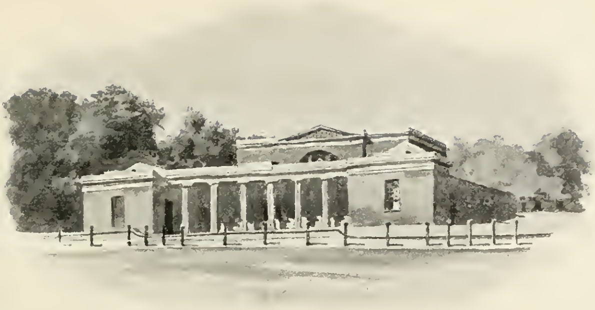
KENSINGTON PALACE, 1744.

CHAPT[illegible]

KENSINGTON PALACE [illegible]

The birthplace of Queen Victoria—The [illegible] and Abbot Islip—John of Gaunt [illegible] —Lord Chancellor Nottingham—[illegible] Gravel pits—Queen Anne and [illegible] the avenues and lawns—The [illegible] Garden—The Water Tower—The [illegible] which the Queen was born—The [illegible] —The history of Kensington [illegible] —The State apartments.

AS part of the [illegible] parish [illegible] is in that [illegible] that her Majesty [illegible] of Kensington [illegible] festivities [illegible] cluded. [illegible] St Margaret's [illegible] ward of the [illegible] several houses [illegible] are now [illegible] Kensington, [illegible] scribe [illegible] Palace and the Gardens, would [illegible] teresting building, and our most [illegible]



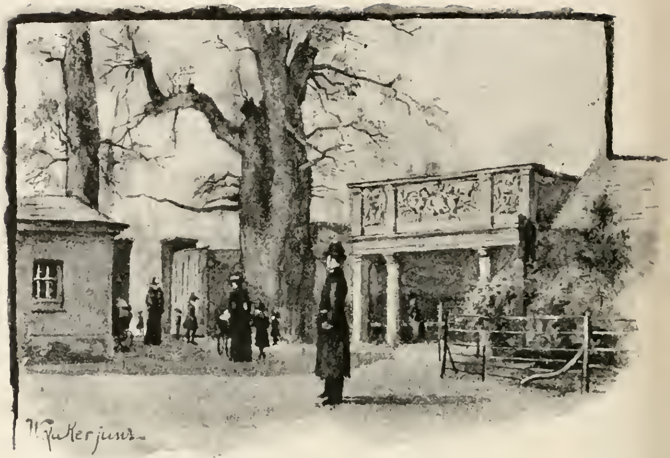
POWDER MAGAZINE.

CHAPTER V

KENSINGTON PALACE AND KENSINGTON GARDENS

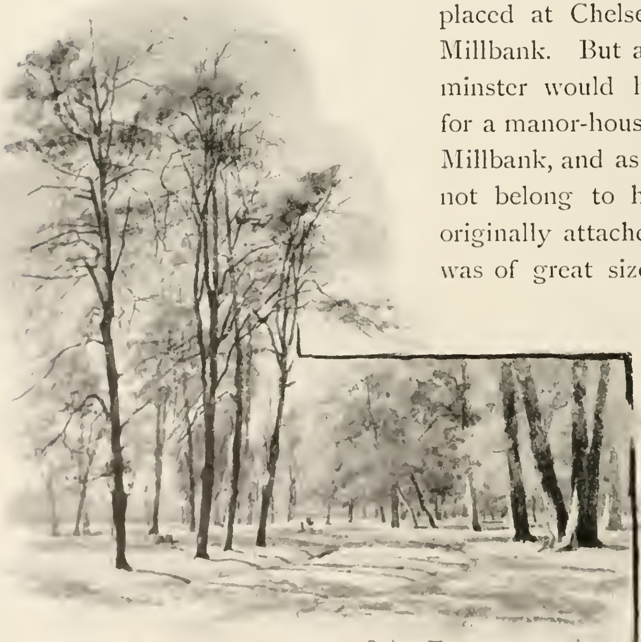
The birthplace of Queen Victoria—The manor-house of Neyt—Abbot Littlington and Abbot Islip—John of Gaunt—John of York—The Coppins—The Finches—Lord Chancellor Nottingham—William III.—Extent of Nottingham Park—Curious errors—Queen Anne and Queen Caroline not land-grabbers—Names of the avenues and lawns—The Temple—The Alcove—The Barracks—The Conduit—The Water Tower—The Orangery—The Palace—The room in which the Queen was born—The Council Chamber—The Duke of Sussex—Thackeray on Kensington Palace—Lord Harvey and the King's pictures—The State Apartments.

As part of the town of Kensington is in the parish of Westminster, and as the palace is in that part, we can say, in a sense, that her Majesty Queen Victoria is a native of Kensington; and among the jubilee festivities a visit to her birthplace was included. True, the boundary line between St. Margaret's and St. Mary's passes westward of the palace; but it also cuts off several houses in the High Street, yet they are none the less in the High Street of Kensington, and nowhere else. To describe our parish, and to leave out the Palace and the Gardens, would be to leave out our most interesting building, and our most beautiful scenery.

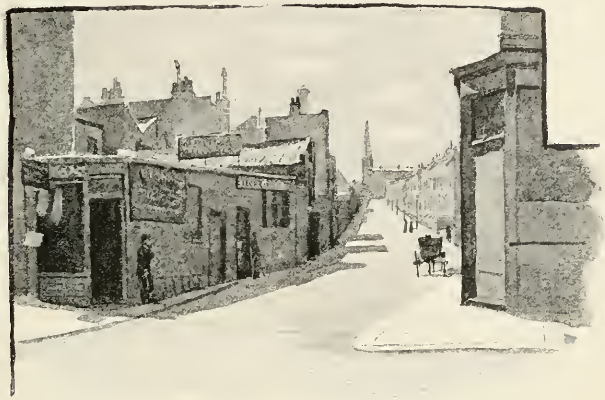

W. Luker junr.

WEST ENTRANCE TO KENSINGTON GARDENS.

There was probably a house on or very near where the palace now stands at a very remote period. The land surrounding it formed part of the great estate of the Abbey of Westminster, in itself a reason sufficient to account for the nature of the boundary line. The abbot must have had a house on his manor of Neyt, which we know was somewhere west of London. It is usually placed at Chelsea, I think, or at Millbank. But an abbot of Westminster would have no occasion for a manor-house so near home as Millbank, and as for Chelsea it did not belong to him. The manor originally attached to Westminster was of great size and was divided into Eybury, where there was a manor-house, in what is now Ebury Street; Hyde, which is now Hyde Park; and lastly Neyt. It may be that in "Knights-

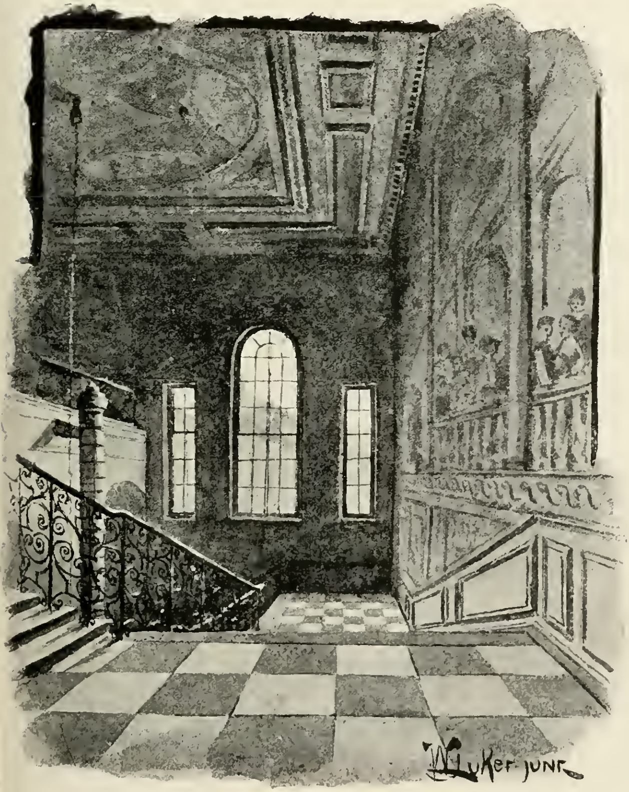


Boundary Stones & Cedar Trees



KENSINGTON PLACE.

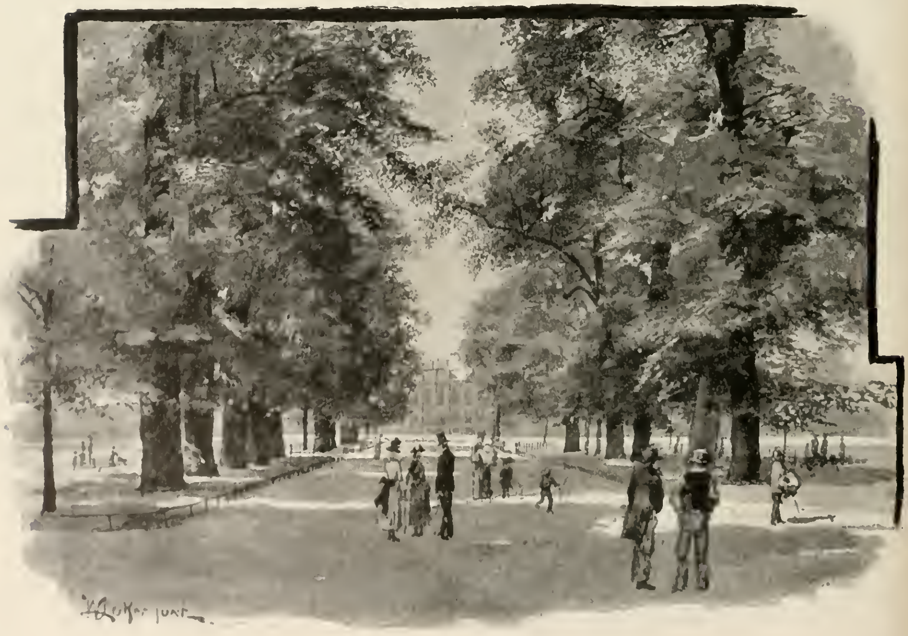
bridge" there is a reference to Neyt: but this is only a conjecture. That there was a manor-house of Neyt, and that it was situated on the Abbot's manor, and somewhere to the westward of Westminster, is certain. There is no other spot which so exactly answers all the requirements of the case. The great Abbot Littlington, to whose care and skill so much of the beauty of Westminster Abbey is due, died at his manor-house of Neyt in 1386. Here, too, a century and a half later, came Abbot Islip, whose name is still borne by a chapel in the Abbey. He was sick unto death, and must have foreseen the troubles impending. Neyt makes but few other ap-



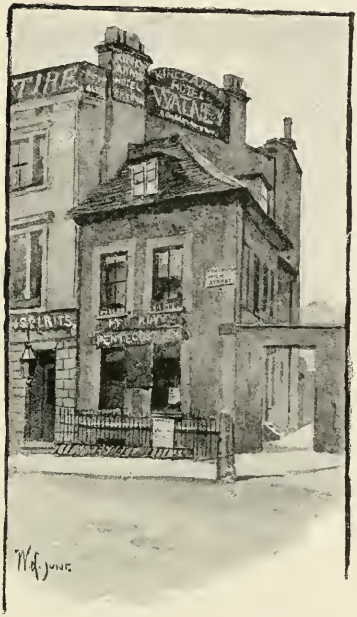
VIEW OF THE STAIRCASE LOOKING WEST, KENSINGTON PALACE.

pearances upon the page of history: but those few are sufficiently remarkable to render it worth while to identify the site. When the Savoy had been burnt, and John of Gaunt was looking for a suitable residence, he lived for a time during the sitting of Parliament at the Abbot's manor-house at Neyt, before he finally settled down in Ely Place. Its convenient nearness to Westminster was assigned as a reason: but the Duke's tenancy shows at least that the house was large and commodious. Half a century later it seems to have been let to another prince of the blood, for John, the fifth son of Richard, Duke of York, was born here 14th November 1448, the year of his father's pacification of Ireland, and of the chief events which led eventually to the Yorkist success. John of York died before his brother Edward IV. ascended the throne.

This is, I fear, all I can offer as an account of the early history of what grew into Kensington Palace. After the dissolution, the manor was granted away to various people, and it is difficult or impossible to trace their succession. We meet, a hundred years later, with a family named Coppin, who had it,

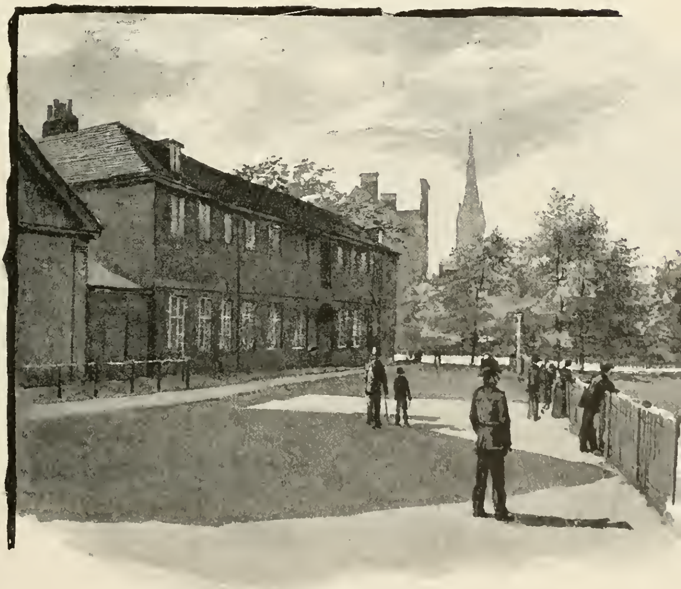

H. Railton junr.

THE WALK SOUTH OF KENSINGTON PALACE.



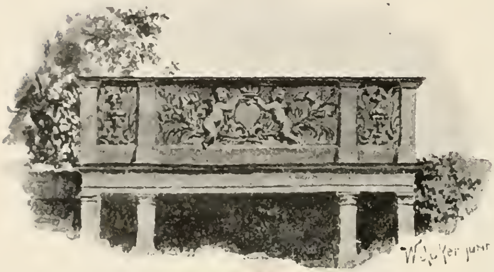
OLD LODGE, PALACE GATES.

or a great part of it, and also land to the north and west in Kensington. Thomas Coppin sold a field of two acres to the parish in 1651, just where Clanricarde Gardens are now; and a little earlier we have mention of a certain Sir George Coppin who had thirty-six and a half acres in one holding, partly in Westminster, partly in Kensington, and partly in Paddington. This answers admirably to the Kensington Gardens of the present day. A house, perhaps an inn, but most houses had signs then, called the "White Hart," in the High Street, belonged to the estate, and there was "a messuage with its appurtenances." Besides these holdings there was a field of eleven and a half acres wholly within St. Margaret's, which from its name we should be tempted to identify with the farthest part of Kensington Gardens as it is called "Long Park Close."



Faulkner thinks it wonderful that

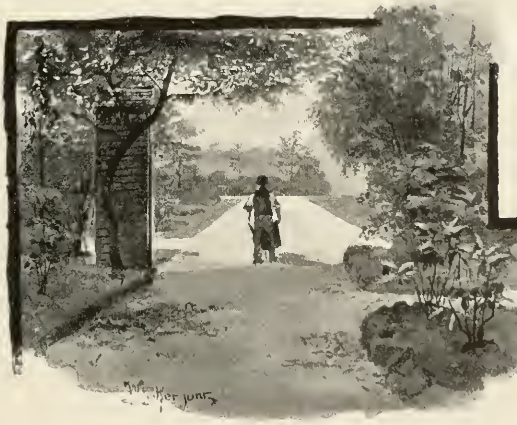
there is no mention of this estate in the parish books: but parochial records have as a rule little concern with estates in other parishes: and it would have been more wonderful if he had found any notice. The Coppins let the place to Sir Heneage Finch, Recorder of London, who died here in 1631; as nearly as possible two hundred years after the death of Abbot Islip. The Finch family evidently liked it. They continued to rent it from the Coppins, and in 1651 a daughter of Sir Heneage was married in Kensington Church to "Mr. Edward Conneway," afterwards Earl of Conway. This was during the Commonwealth, or probably the marriage would have been at Westminster, but it brings the name into our registers. It is quite certain that the father of the bride was the then deceased Sir Heneage Finch, the Recorder, and not his son, another Sir Heneage, who rose much higher. As the house is called Lady Finch's in another entry in the Church Register in 1656, it seems likely that the Recorder's widow was living there. Soon after the Restoration, namely in 1662, we find it in the possession of the second Sir Heneage Finch. His house, which is the same as that which had been rented from the Coppins, had extensive gardens to the north, towards the Bayswater Road and the Gravel Pits, nine acres of which were within the Kensington boundary. In the opposite direction they extended to the High Street, and eastward to the hedge and ditch of Hyde Park. This hedge and ditch Sir Heneage had leave to remove for some less prominent kind of fence, and eventually, but not I think in his time, the present sunk fence was made.



TOP OF PORCH AT WEST ENTRANCE TO KENSINGTON GARDENS.

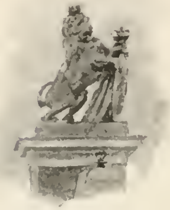
At what time the Coppins severed the St. Margaret's estate from their holdings in the manor of St. Mary Abbot's I do not know. Part of the estate was bought from the Muschamps, one of whom, in 1675, had still forty-four acres in the parish. But the Finches remained at Nottingham House till it was bought for William III. in 1689.

The Finch family comprised several remarkable men, among whom perhaps the greatest was the Lord Chancellor Nottingham, who held the Great Seal, first as Lord Keeper, from 1673. He was made a peer as Lord Finch of Daventry in 1674, and Chancellor in 1675. He presided as Lord Steward on three occasions at the trials of peers, and on the 12th May 1681 was created Earl of Nottingham, an elevation he only enjoyed a year and a half, as he died on the eighteenth of December 1682, aged sixty-one years. His eldest son, the second earl, was nicknamed "Dismal" on account of his gravity and dark complexion: and there are in many books small jokes about the "black finches" of Nottingham House. This Earl Daniel, in particular, may or may not have been wise, but by his demeanour, if by nothing else, he obtained a reputation for wisdom. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society, a Governor of the Charterhouse, a Commissioner of Greenwich Hospital, and a Trustee of Westminster School; and Mr. Doyle (*Official Baronage*, ii. 677) quotes many contemporary descriptions of his appearance. Queen Mary, it seems, distrusted him, on account of his formal grave look. He was a "thin, very black man, like a Spaniard, or Jew," says another authority. Swift describes him as "of grave deportment and countenance." In 1729, a few months only before his death, he succeeded a distant cousin in the earldom of Winchilsea, but his connection with Kensington had come to an end many years before.



SENTRY BOX OUTSIDE THE ROOM IN WHICH THE QUEEN WAS BO

In 1690, Evelyn writes in his diary, under the date of February 25th, "I went to Kensington, which King William had bought of Lord Nottingham, and altered, but was yet a patched building, but with the gardens, however, it is a very neat villa, having to it the park, and a strait new way through this park."

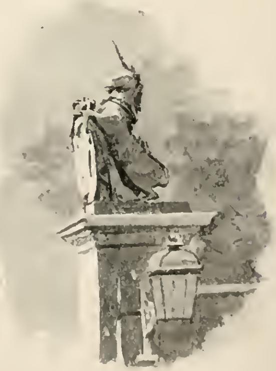


PART OF GATE, KENSINGTON PALACE.

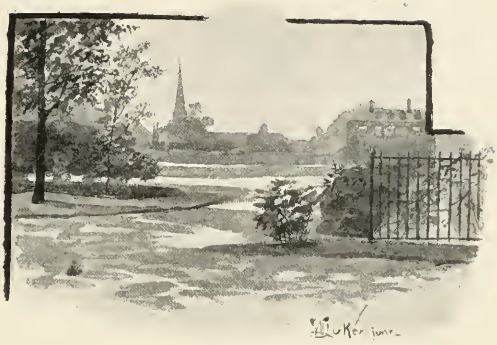
It is desirable to look closely at the date of this entry. Faulkner in quoting it says, "February 25th, 1690-1," but this is a mistake. It should be, reckoning the year from the 25th March, 1689-90, or reckoning it, as we do, from the first of January, it should be 1690. So that King William bought Nottingham House in 1689, not in 1691, as Faulkner and others have said.

Thus, then, some time in 1689, the year after the landing in Torbay, King William and Queen Mary came to live at the house, close to Kensington, to which they gave the name it has ever since borne, of Kensington Palace.

There has been some confusion about the size of the estate while it belonged to the Finches. This has partly arisen from neglecting the boundaries. We find Leigh Hunt, for example, saying that before King William's time, Kensington Gardens consisted of only fifteen acres, and that the King added nine acres; Anne added thirty acres; Queen Caroline, wife of George the Second, added three hundred. Something to the same effect is also stated by Pyne, Faulkner, Cunningham, and others. The fact is that Sir Heneage Finch the Second, afterwards Earl of Nottingham, had very nearly all the present Kensington Gardens. We must make a distinction between Gardens and gardens. Queen Anne took thirty acres into the pleasure grounds round the house, but she took it from the larger and



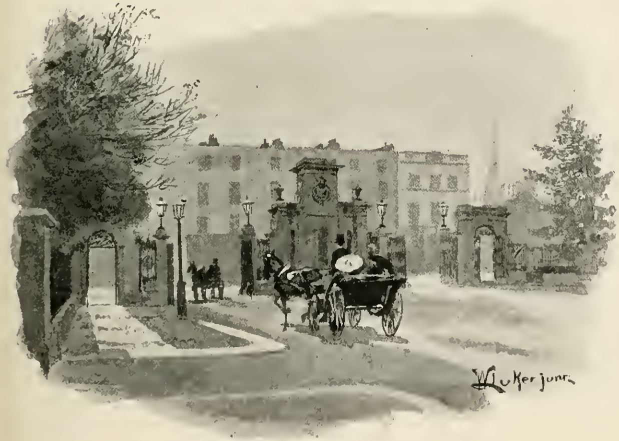
PART OF GATE, KENSINGTON PALACE.



FROM KENSINGTON PALACE GROUNDS.

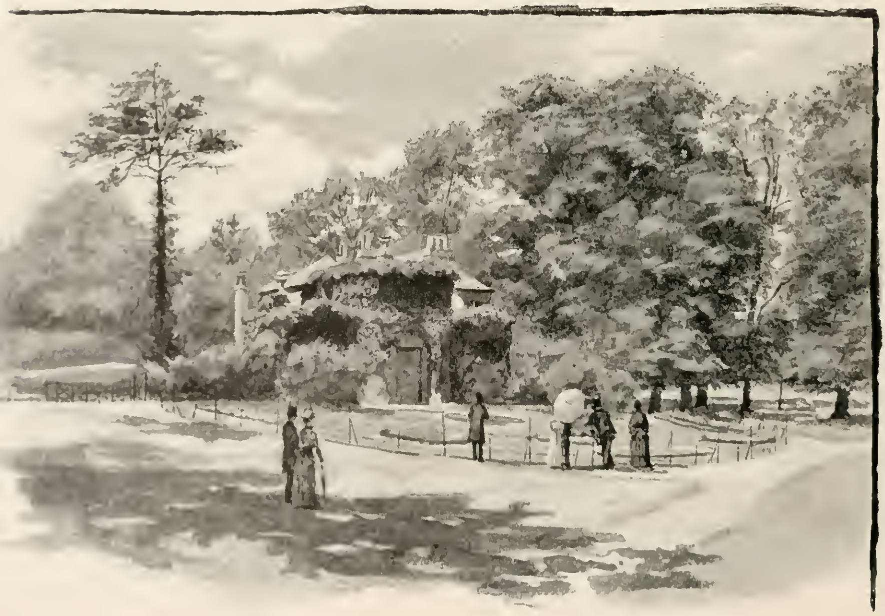
unenclosed Gardens. Bowack, who is the authority for these statements, and who wrote while the work was going on, namely in 1705, is very clear on the point:—"So frugal have they been of the room they had, that there is not an inch but what is well improved, the whole with the house not being above twenty-six acres;" that is to say, that with practically unlimited space, nearly all the park which we call Kensington Gardens in general, the portion laid out with walks and yew hedges and flower-beds, did not exceed twenty-six acres. The rest was, as it is still, a well-planted open space, up hill and down dale, to the Serpentine, and beyond it to the "Ha-ha" or sunk fence which may possibly be the boundary set when Charles II. gave Sir Heneage leave to dig up the ditch and fence between his land and Hyde Park.

As has been observed, a very small part of all this was in Kensington, and when Faulkner and Leigh Hunt took account only of what belonged to the manor of St. Mary Abbot's, which apparently is what they did, and mixed up with it Bowack's account of Queen Anne's flower garden, they left a pretty little puzzle for solution by posterity. I do not pretend to have solved it, but



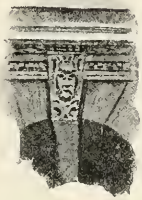
GATES OF PALACE GARDENS.

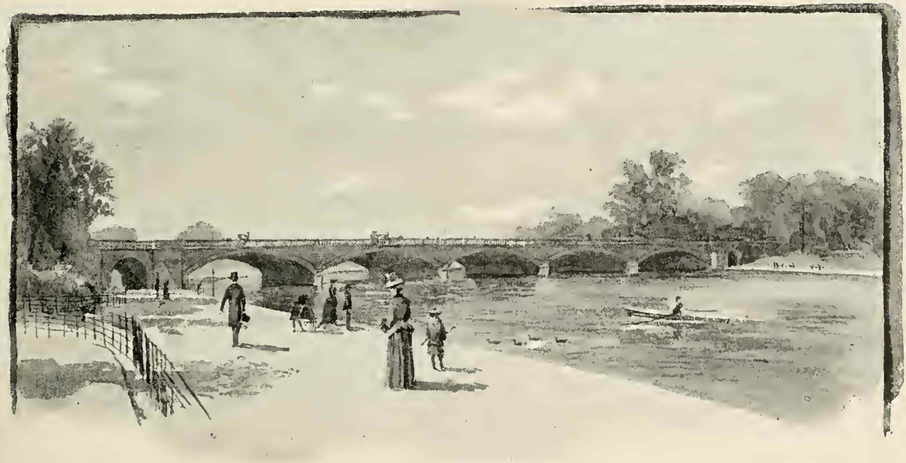
this I know, that though the second Sir Heneage had a park or farm, or call it what you will, which extended to the confines of Hyde Park, as early as the reign of Charles II., he is only returned as owning nine acres of freehold in the manor of Abbot's Kensington. To this Faulkner appends a note, "Lord Finch's lands are now Kensington Gardens," and a little farther on, where we read that Mr. Coppin had an estate in the Abbot's manor of 196 acres, Faulkner adds, "Coppin's lands are now part of Kensington Gardens." Both these statements cannot be correct, but both of them may be, and I think are, erroneous. The nine acres held by Finch were the north-west corner of the fruit garden. Round it a red brick wall was built, many fragments of which we still see here and there in Kensington. These nine acres are now covered by the first six houses in the stately avenue known as Palace Gardens: the only part of what we may call the royal precincts which was and is within the boundary of our parish. Coppin's lands were farther west and north.

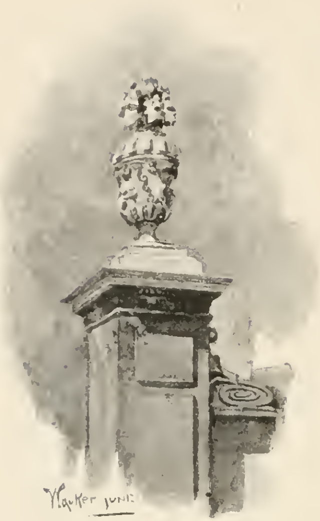


LODGE IN KENSINGTON GARDENS.

It would be very satisfactory to clear up this muddle completely. It is a very common thing to lay against Queen Caroline, one of the greatest and most constitutional of queen consorts, of whom it has been said that she made Walpole's ministry possible, that she filched land from Hyde Park to add to her own pleasure-grounds; and the same might be said of Queen Anne before her. Until the whole of the muddle founded upon Bowack's correct account is cleared up, it will be impossible to prove every step of this contradiction of numerous authorities; but since I first began to see the difficulty of reconciling two such utterly incompatible statements as those two in Faulkner's footnotes on the manor of Abbot's Kensington, everything I have found out has tended to strengthen and nothing to weaken the views here put forward. When we have found a contemporary map of the estate as King William bought it, the question will be finally decided. But it is easy to see that when Coppin is returned as having an estate of 196 acres in the manor of Kensington, it cannot have been in what we call Kensington Gardens, no part of which is in the manor of Kensington. And as the boundary between


KEYSTONE OF ARCH OF ORANGE HOUSE, KENSINGTON GARDENS.

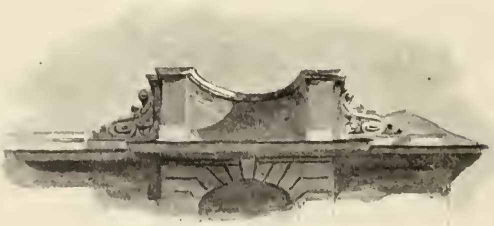

BRIDGE OVER THE SERPENTINE.



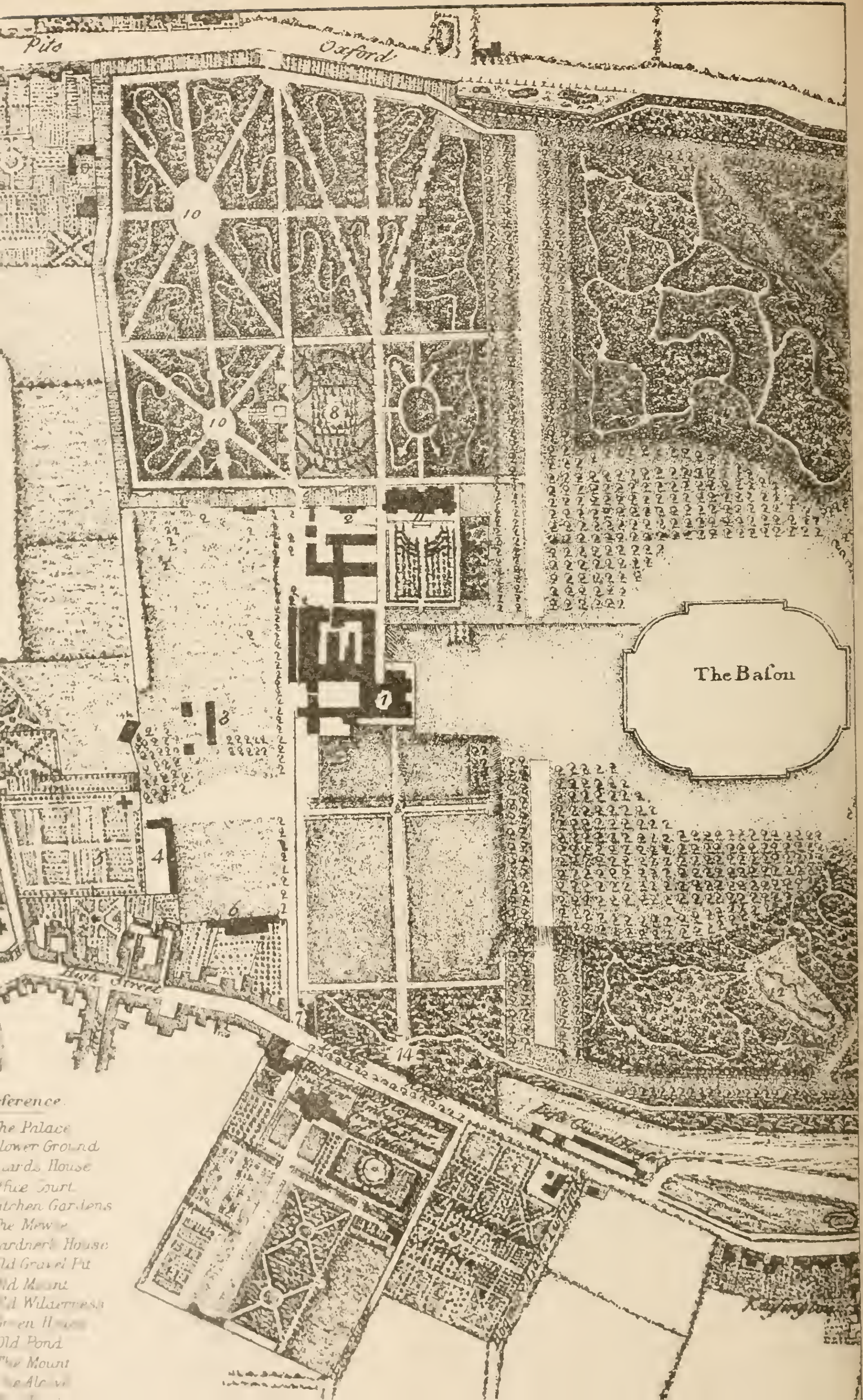
TOP OF GATE POST.

the park of Nottingham House and Hyde Park stood just where it does now in 1662, it is entirely erroneous to say that any land was taken from Hyde Park by Queen Anne or Queen Caroline, or any other monarch who dwelt in what had been Nottingham House. The earliest map I have seen which shows the boundaries on the east side is one in the Crace Collection, and is itself a copy. It represents Hyde Park, and is dated 1725; it shows Kensington Gardens, very much as they are now. They were the park attached to Nottingham House, and when we say that land was taken from the park to add to the gardens, we must understand Nottingham Park, not Hyde Park. It is well to keep this distinctly in our minds. Neither Queen Anne nor Queen Caroline took an acre from Hyde Park.

The earliest engraved map of Kensington House, Gardens and Park, is that of Roque, dedicated to Queen Caroline in 1736, the year before she died. I am indebted to Mr. Merriman for a manuscript key to it, from which we can gather the names of each plot in the park which we call Kensington Gardens. It answers exactly to what we read of the grounds of Sir Heneage Finch in 1662, except that the gardens about the house had been greatly extended, and the park—not Hyde Park, as so many authorities would have us believe—correspondingly diminished. The old royal kitchen garden, which was done away with in 1848, lay well to the



THE ORANGE HOUSE, KENSINGTON GARDENS.


Pits
Oxford
10
10
8
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
11
12
14
The Bason
High Street
Kensington
ference.
he Palace
lower Ground
uards House
ffice Court
itchen Gardens
he Mews
ardner's House
ld Gravel Pit
ld Mount
ld Wilderness
reen House
ld Pond
he Mount
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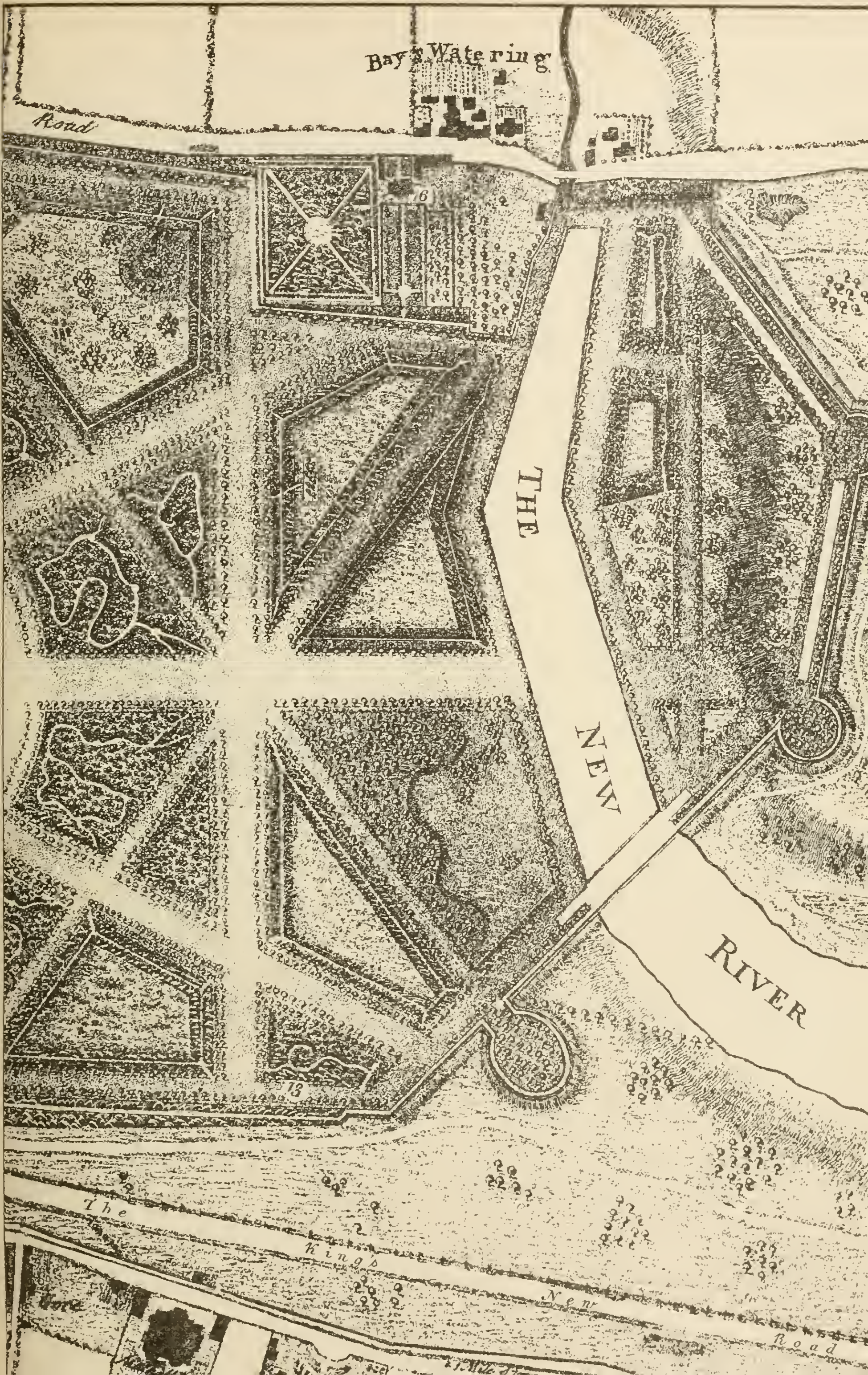
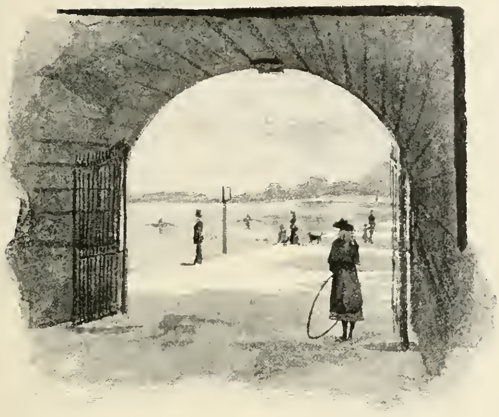
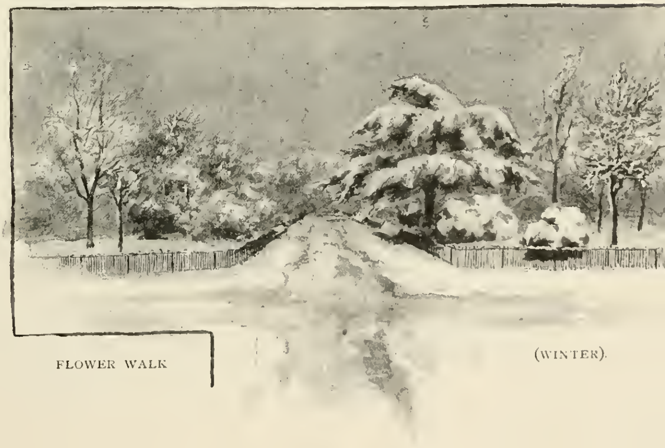

Bays Watering
Road
6
THE NEW RIVER
13
The King's New Road
Gore

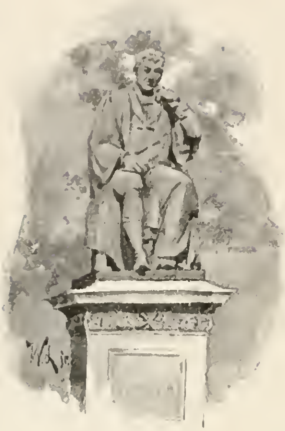


THE SERPENTINE.

north-west, and was no doubt the nine or ten acres in the parish of Kensington which are returned as part of the estate of Sir Heneage Finch in 1672. A little east of this plot was the Wilderness. Its site is marked for us by a few yew trees which still survive. This is described as "Old Gardens and Gravel Pits," and is bordered on the west by Hog Walk, which leads to the Gravel Pit Gate, and on the east by Brazen-face Walk, so called probably from a bronze bust which may have been set up in it. The "Old Mount," so called no doubt to distinguish it from a mound near the present site of the Albert Cross, was behind the Orangery, a beautiful building, of which I shall have more to say. In front was the "Flower Garden," now covered with hothouses. But Queen Caroline, and perhaps before her Queen Anne, had enclosed a much larger piece of the park at the south side of the house. Here, a fine elm avenue, much of which has but lately disappeared, led from the front of the Palace, where a sun-dial stood, through a formal garden, to the "Alcove," a beautiful little bit of red brick and marble, designed by Wren, which stood against the wall of the "Bath Road," close to

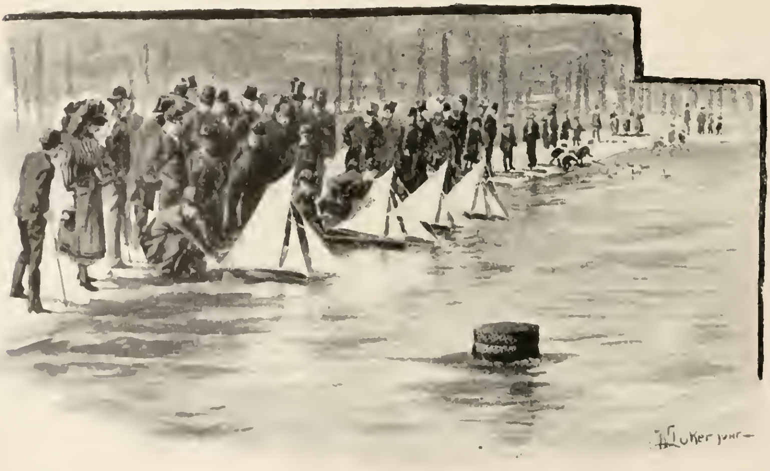


FLOWER WALK (WINTER).


JENNER'S STATUE.

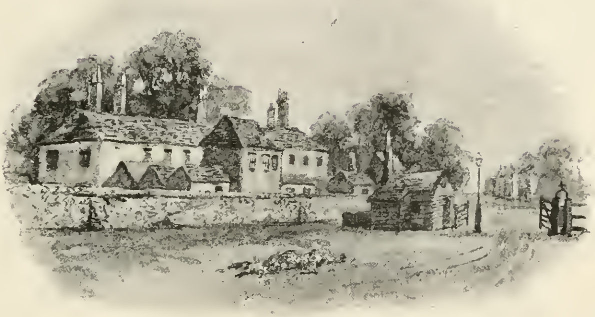
High Street. Of the Alcove more is to be said presently. This south garden was the scene of many gay doings, and was thronged on set occasions by the courtiers. The western half was named the "Home Lawn," the eastern the "Slope Lawn." Bordering these lawns and gardens, and running, as it does still, from the "Bath Road" to the "Oxford Road," was the avenue described as the "Grand Walk." Beyond it, eastward, lay the Bason, and all round it, to the Serpentine and much farther, was open park, crossed in right lines by formal rows of trees, through which the most delightful views and vistas might be had to the extremities of the grounds, and even into Hyde Park, the boundary line being concealed by the sunk fence which Sir Heneage Finch obtained leave to make in 1662. At the foot of the slope in the valley of the Westbourne, Queen Caroline effected a great improvement by widening the brook. The little stream, winding through a marshy hollow, became the Serpentine as we now see it.

The Swan Inn, which stands where the bourne crossed the Bayswater Road under a narrow bridge, as appears by

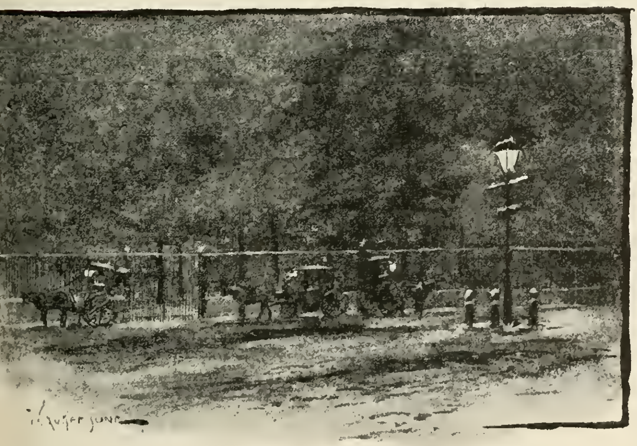


BOAT-RACING ON THE ROUND POND—THE START.

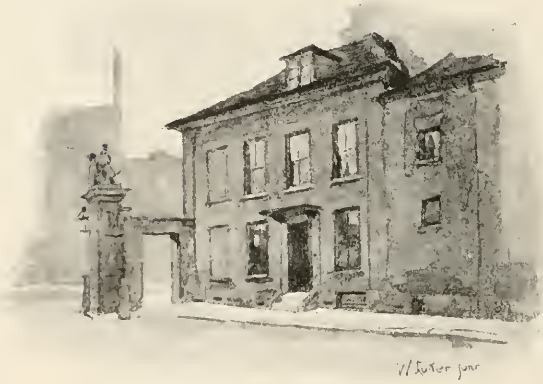
Roque's map, may in its sign refer to the existence of swans on the water. Marlborough Gate, near the same corner, is the modern and "genteel" name of "Buck Hill Gate," in which there was a reminiscence of the time when deer were kept in the park of Nottingham House. The high ground east of the Serpentine was similarly called Buck Barn Hill, and one of the diagonal drives was Buck Barn Walk. No doubt, there was here, as in other parks of the kind, a shed or "barn" for the deer.


TURNPIKE AND CAVALRY BARRACK.

Another walk was called after an "Old Pond," which was near the spot now marked by St. Govor's Well. Two enclosures were for horses and carts, and the "Temple Quarter" probably shows us where a "Temple" or summer-house in that form crowned the top of an artificial mound, marked by "Mount Walk," to the westward of the place now occupied by the Albert Memorial. This temple is often mentioned in the literature of the eighteenth century, and was standing within the memory of many people still living.


SOUTH ENTRANCE TO KENSINGTON GARDENS (NIGHT).

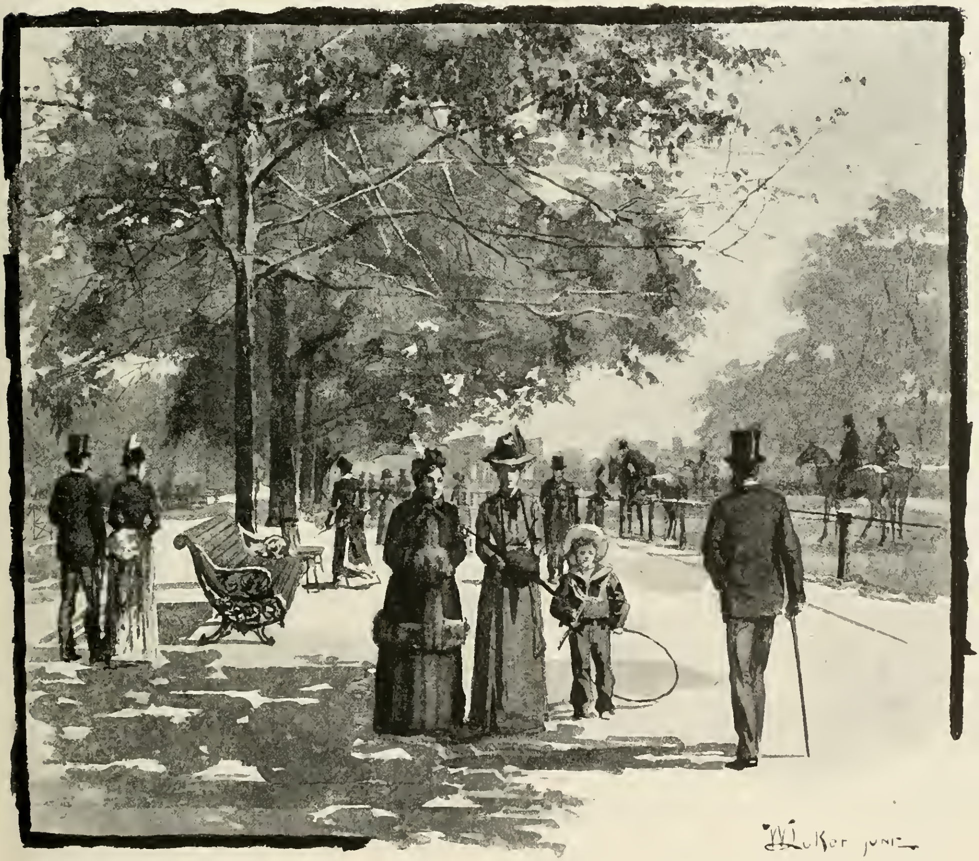
Kensington Gardens have been greatly altered since Roque's map was made. The Cavalry Barracks which stood exactly opposite to what is now called "Palace Gate" have long been removed. The wall which extended from the Barracks along the road to High Street has also been taken away, and with it the beautiful "Alcove" which faced the palace at the foot of the Dial Walk. It has now been set up near Marlborough Gate at the other end of the Gardens, where it ought to have served as an example to the architect who designed the wretched buildings round the fountains at the end of the Serpentine. It was built, like the Orangery, for Queen Anne by Sir Christopher Wren, and bears the Queen's monogram on the centre stone of the arch. It is said that while the Alcove stood in its original place it was used by the French refugees as a kind of altar for the celebration of an open-air mass during the Revolution, the numbers of the congregation being so great that no building available was large enough to receive them.



OLD LODGE, PALACE GATES.

The southern boundary of the Gardens was formed by a long railing, within which was the "Royal Road," running parallel with the present "Flower Walk," and a ride which continued Rotten Row. Within these again was a brick wall. The Cavalry Barracks stood just by the turnpike, which itself was at the head of what we now call Palace Gate and near the foot of the Broad Walk.

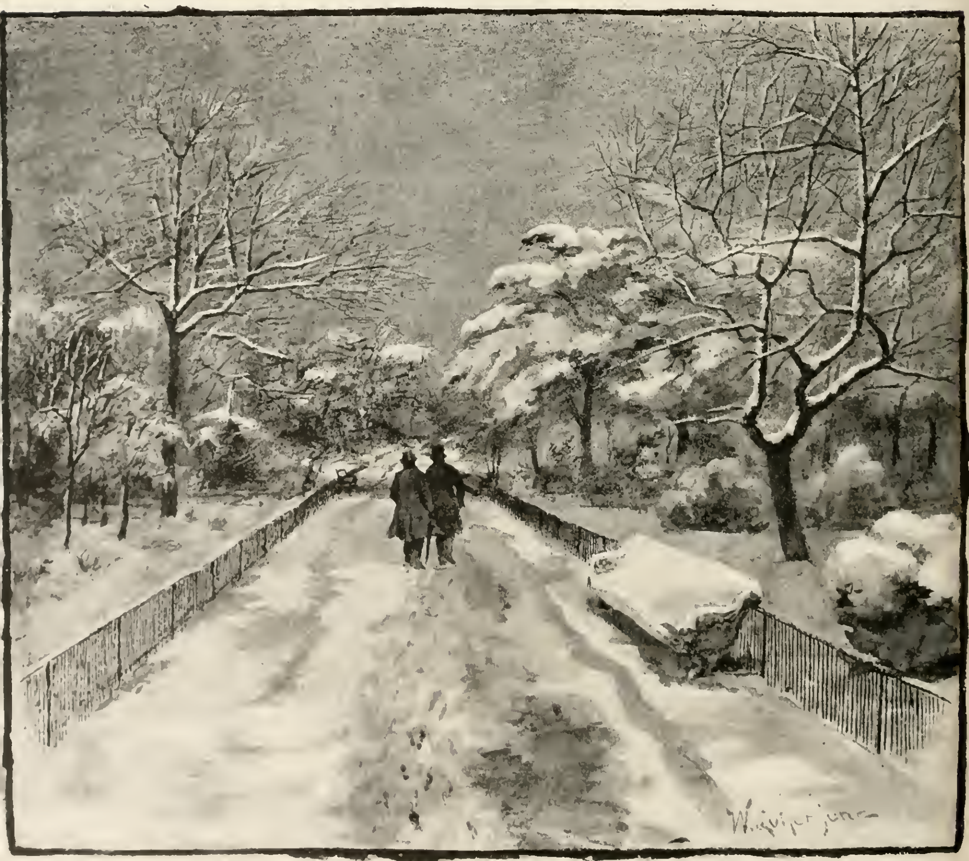
A small guard-house or barrack is still standing on the south side of Palace Green, which we approach past a lodge with a very Wren-like cornice, through a gateway on the pillars of which a lion and a unicorn bear the arms of William III. The Green was formerly the Moor, and is so called in many old records. To the north of the Moor were the royal kitchen gardens, surrounded by a red brick wall. Close to the Green was the Conduit, a low brick building with gable ends, and vaulted within. It was built about 1536, for the supply of water to Chelsea, where Henry VIII. had a "palace," as it was sometimes called, which became the Dower House of his last wife, Katharine Parr, and subsequently of his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves, who died there. At the time of its destruction, 1871, for which I never heard any reason assigned, this



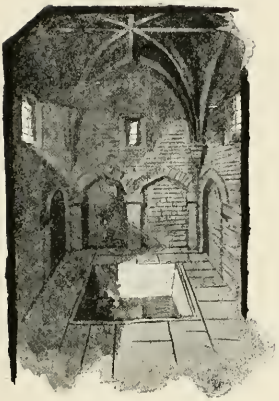
THE ROW.

conduit was by far the oldest building left in Kensington. In Palace Green also stood a water tower, erected in the reign of Queen Anne, it is said from the designs of Vanbrugh, and certainly, to judge from the woodcut in Faulkner's book, it was worthy of that eccentric architect.

The Orangery bears Queen Anne's monogram, and is a very beautiful building of its kind, evidently from Wren's own hand. It was sometimes used as a supper room, and in the reign of George II. for the orange trees in tubs, which were brought out to deck the front of the palace in summer. I cannot but express my regret at the neglected aspect of this



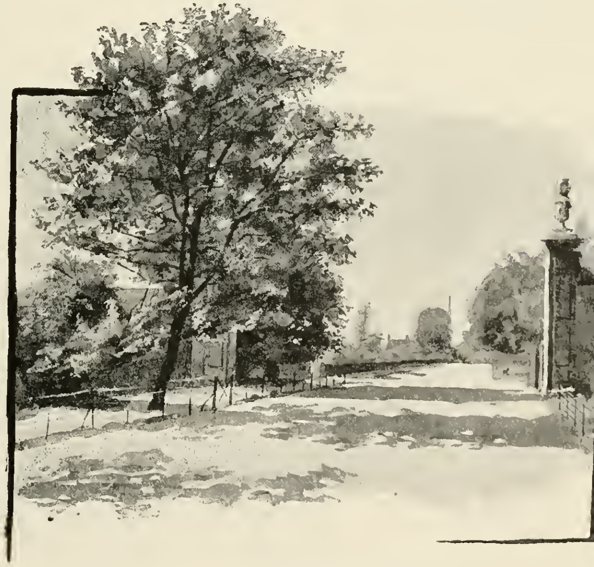
FLOWER WALK (WINTER).



OLD KENSINGTON CONDUIT.

little masterpiece at present, and the way in which some glass forcing houses have been placed as if on purpose to hide it.

The Palace is an irregular pile of red and brown brick, and looks very well from the gardens, where the warm colouring contrasts pleasantly with the green foliage. It consists of a central building round a courtyard, and of two long wings, one of which extends north-eastward, and the other south-westward. All are in the same simple style, the only attempt at ornament or architectural effect being in the presence of some carved stone vases over the parapet of the south front, and a pediment towards the east. The clock turret is as plain as such a structure can be, and the most prominent entrance is by a portico of columns barely tall enough for a carriage to drive under them. Another door, at the extreme northern end, is handsome and has the monogram of William and Mary, several times repeated. This is sometimes said to be a fragment of Nottingham House. The palace is at present divided into sets of apartments. Those at the northern end, of which I have just been speaking, are inhabited by Sir Francis Seymour. The chaplain is lodged in an adjoining set.



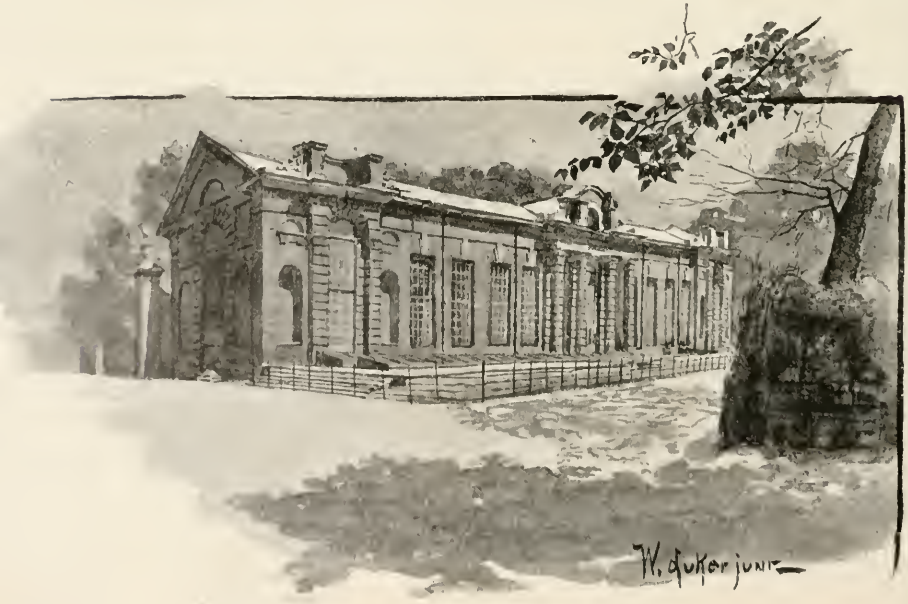
GATEWAY NEAR ORANGERY.

The south-western wing is the residence of the Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise. The apartments under the state rooms look to the east. They were occupied by the Duke and Duchess of Teck for some years, but are now vacant.

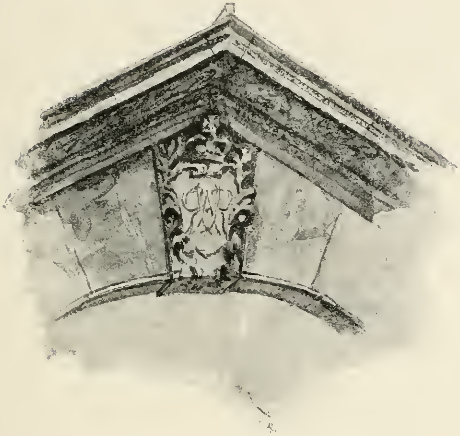
The last of this set, at the north-east corner of the main building of the palace, is a room with three large windows looking out on the gardens towards the Round Pond. Here, on the north wall, is a small brass plate bearing this inscription:—

IN THIS ROOM
Queen Victoria
WAS BORN,
MAY 24TH 1819.

Adjoining this chamber is a handsome drawing-room exactly under the central pedimented front, and behind it, to the westward that is, the room is situated in which the Queen held her first council. It is a gloomy chamber, looking into a narrow courtyard, the roof supported by pillars, intended no

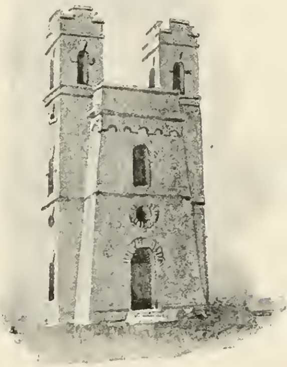


THE ORANGE HOUSE.

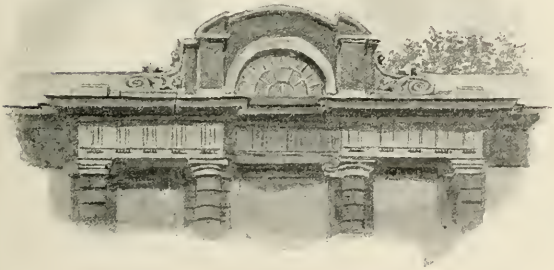


INITIALS OF QUEEN ANNE, ALCOVE.

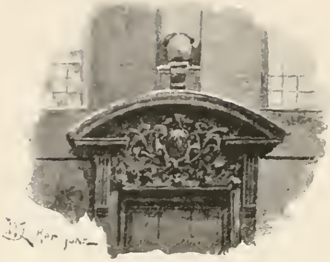
doubt to strengthen the floor of the Cupola Room, in the state apartments above. The engraving after Wilkie's picture is well known. The picture, which is in the Long Corridor at Windsor Castle, must have been carefully studied on the spot. The cheerful drawing-room beyond must have been the place where Lord Melbourne and the Archbishop announced her accession to the young Queen, in the early morning of 20th June 1837. It was, so far as I can make out, in this same chamber, which Faulkner on this occasion only calls the Grand Saloon, that the future Queen was christened on the 24th June 1819. "The golden font was brought from the Tower," and crimson velvet coverings were brought from the Chapel Royal at St. James's. The sponsors were the Prince Regent, who in the following year became King George IV.; the Emperor Alexander of Russia, represented by the Duke of York; the Queen Dowager of Wurtemberg, represented by the Princess Augusta, and the Duchess Dowager of



THE WATER TOWER.



ORANGE HOUSE, KENSINGTON GARDENS (ANOTHER VIEW).

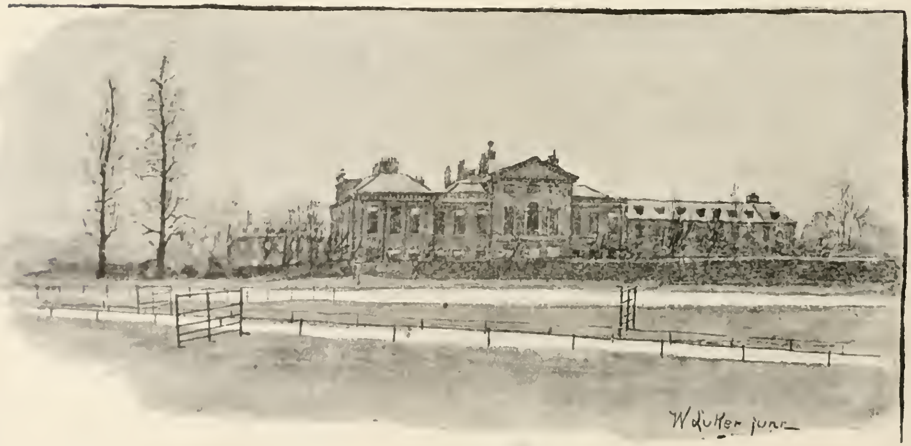


DOOR OF KENSINGTON PALACE.

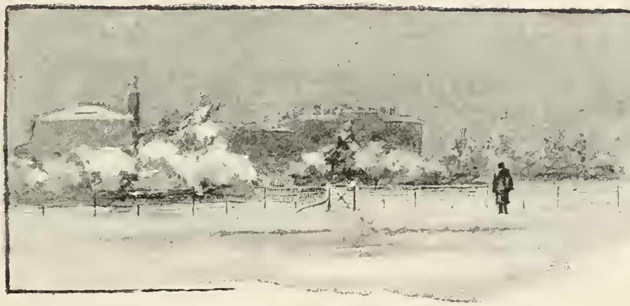
Coburg, represented by the Duchess of Gloucester. The Prince Regent named the infant Alexandrina only it is said, but her mother's name of Victoria was fortunately added in time. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London officiated. The archbishop was Charles Manners Sutton, who died in 1828, when he was succeeded by the bishop, William Howley, who, eighteen years later, attended with the Prime Minister in this same chamber, to tell the young princess that she was Queen of England.

Three days after the christening, namely on the 27th of June, the Duchess of Kent attended the afternoon service at Kensington Parish Church, and was publicly churched by the Bishop of Salisbury.

The duchess and her daughter continued to reside here after the death of the duke, which took place at Weymouth in the January of the following year. The young princess was often seen in Kensington Gardens, and sometimes took her airings in a little phaeton drawn by two minute ponies. This



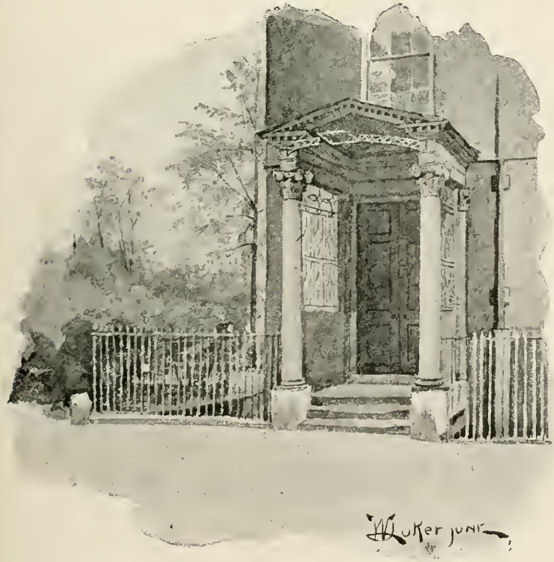
EAST FRONT OF KENSINGTON PALACE.



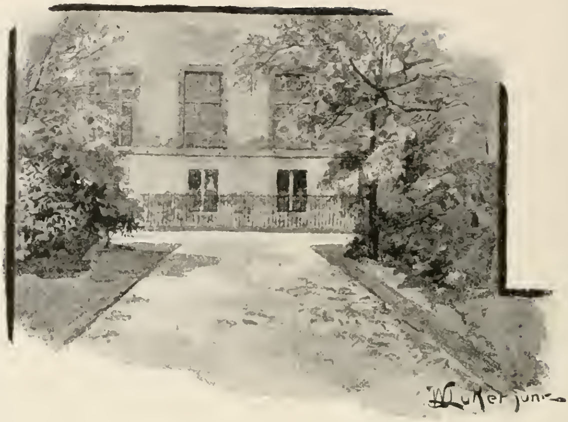
PRINCESS LOUISE'S STUDIO.

scene is represented in a curious contemporary print. Another print, also rare, is a lithograph in the collection of Mr. Merriman. It represents her Majesty at the age of sixteen, two years, that is, before her accession: and has a facsimile of her signature below, simply the name "Victoria," in small handwriting. The print is by "Fs. Wm. Wilkin."

Caroline of Brunswick, Princess of Wales, lived in Kensington Palace for a time before her husband became King George IV. Her strange habits, her manners and appearance, were the subjects of much remark in Kensington and Paddington and the neighbourhood. Her death took place at Hammersmith, 7th August 1821; and her funeral on the 14th was marked by a terrible riot at Kensington, in which two tradesmen, Honey and Francis, were killed. Their grave and epitaph are, or were, in Hammersmith Churchyard. But for the courage and care of Robert Waithman, an alderman, who happened to be the sheriff of Middlesex that day, the loss of life would have been far greater. The conflict took place at the corner



DOOR AND PORCH, NORTH-EAST END OF KENSINGTON PALACE.

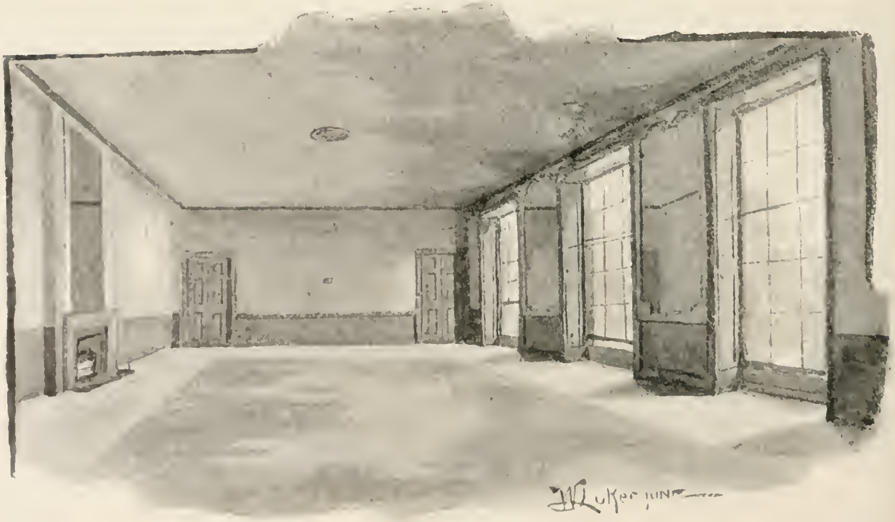


WINDOWS OF THE ROOM IN WHICH THE QUEEN WAS BORN.

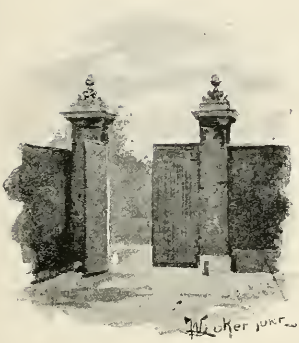
of Church Street and High Street.

The apartments occupied by the Princess Louise and Lord Lorne are those in which the late Duke of Sussex resided for many years. The duke, notwithstanding the provisions of the royal marriage act, married a lady not of princely rank, not once but twice. In 1793 he married Lady Augusta Murray, or "De Ameland," and after her death, which occurred in 1830, he married Lady Cecilia Underwood, the widow of Sir George Buggin, who was created Duchess of Inverness by Queen Victoria in 1840. The Duke of Sussex was Earl of Inverness. The duchess continued to reside here till her death in 1873.

The Duke of Sussex formed a famous library in his apartments here. The collection of bibles, in particular, was magni-



THE ROOM IN WHICH THE QUEEN WAS BORN, KENSINGTON PALACE.


Wicker junr.

GATEWAY TO THE STABLES,
KENSINGTON PALACE.

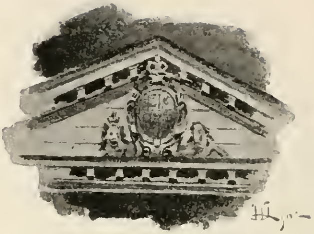
ficent. An excellent catalogue was published by the librarian, Dr. Pettigrew, and the duke was very liberal in permitting access to the books. He died here in 1843, and was buried at Kensal Green, in the adjoining parish of Kensington.

Thackeray, in a few lines, conveys a just idea of the appearance of the State apartments. George Warrington (*Virginians*, ii. 72) is taken to court by his uncle :—" Walking under the portico of the Palace, they entered the gallery which leads to the great black marble staircase (which hath been so richly decorated and painted by Mr. Kent), and then passed through several rooms, richly hung with tapestry and adorned with pictures and busts, until they came to the King's great drawing-room, where that famous Venus by Titian is, and, amongst other masterpieces, the picture of St. Francis adoring the infant Saviour performed by Sir Peter Paul Rubens ; and here with the rest of the visitors to the Court, the gentlemen waited until his Majesty issued from his private apartments, where he was in conference with certain personages who were called in the newspaper language of that day his M—j—ty's M—n—st—rs.

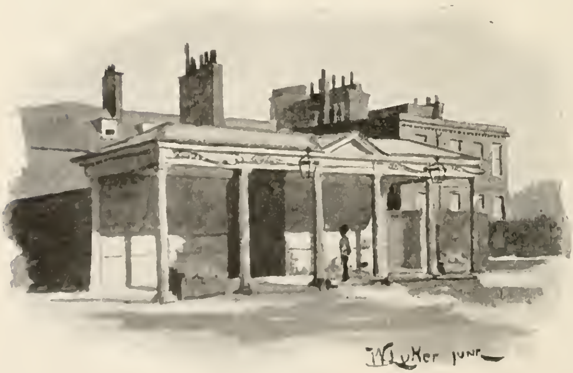
" George Warrington, who had never been in a palace before, had leisure to admire the place, and regard the people round him. He saw fine pictures for the first time too, and I daresay delighted in that charming piece of Sir Anthony Vandyke, representing King Charles the First, his Queen and family, and the noble picture of Esther before Aha-

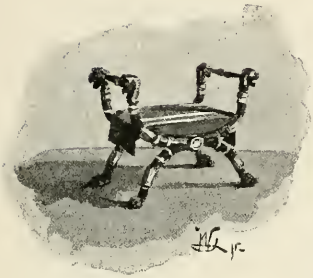
QUEEN CAROLINE IN THE GALLERY.

suerus, painted by Tintoret, and in which all the figures are dressed in the magnificent Venetian habit.”

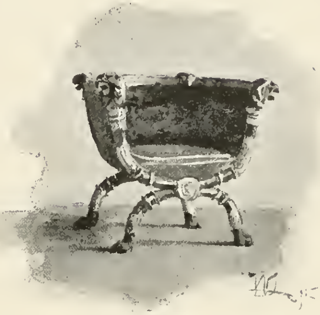

UNDER THE BELFRY, KENSINGTON PALACE.

Hervey, in his *Memoirs* (ii. 33) tells us something more of the pictures. “In the absence of the King the Queen had taken several very bad pictures out of the great drawing-room at Kensington, and put very good ones in their places; the King, affecting, for the sake of contradiction, to dislike this change, or, from his extreme ignorance in painting, really disapproving it, told Lord Hervey, as Vice-Chamberlain, that he would have every new picture taken away, and every old one replaced. Lord Hervey, who had a mind to make his court to the Queen by opposing this order, asked if his Majesty would not give leave for the two Vandykes, at least, on each side of the chimney to remain, instead of those two sign-posts, done by nobody knew who, that had been removed to make way for them. To which the King answered, ‘My Lord, I have a great respect for your taste in what you understand, but in pictures I beg leave to follow my own; I suppose you assisted the Queen with your fine advice when she was pulling my house to pieces and spoiling all my furniture; thank God, at least she has left the walls standing! As for the Vandykes, I do not care whether they are changed or no, but for the picture with the dirty frame over the door, and the three nasty little children, I will have them taken away and the old ones restored; I will have it done, too, to-morrow morning before I go to London, or else, I know, it will not be


PORCH OF KENSINGTON PALACE.



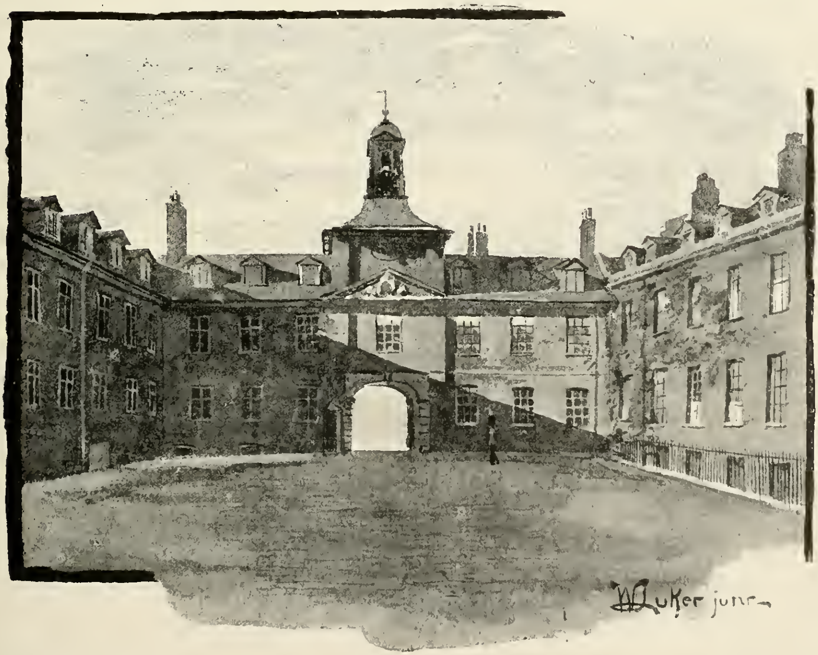
CHAIR IN KENSINGTON PALACE.



CHAIR IN KENSINGTON PALACE.

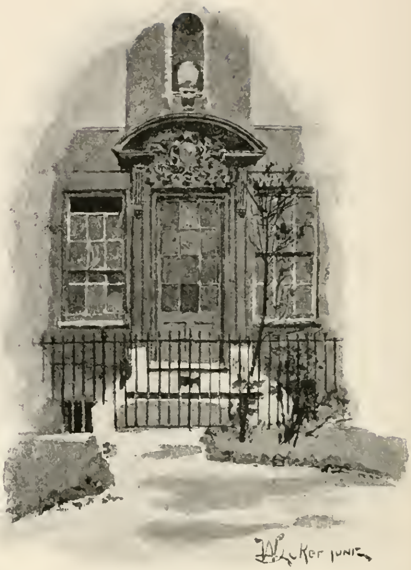
done at all.' 'Would your Majesty,' said Lord Hervey, 'have the gigantic fat Venus restored too?' 'Yes, my Lord; I am not so nice as your Lordship. I like my fat Venus much better than anything you have given me instead of her.'"

Lord Hervey, however, had removed "the fat Venus" to Windsor, and some of the other pictures to Hampton Court. Nevertheless he assured the King all should be done as he wished. The Queen, when he told her of it, "was a good deal displeased, and more ashamed. She said, the King, to be sure, was master of his own furniture, and asked Lord Hervey if the pictures were changed, who told her No, and why it was im-


WLuker junr.

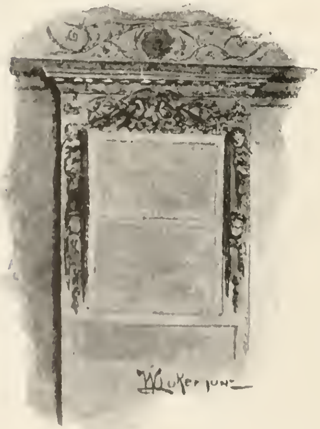
COURTYARD, KENSINGTON PALACE.

possible they should. She charged him not to tell the King why, but to find out some other reason.

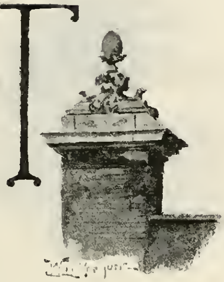

W. Luker junr.

DOORWAY, NORTH-EAST END OF KENSINGTON PALACE.

"While they were speaking the King came in, but by good luck said not one word of the pictures; his Majesty stayed about five minutes in the gallery, snubbed the Queen, who was drinking chocolate, for being always stuffing, the Princess Emily for not hearing him, the Princess Caroline for being grown fat, the Duke (of Cumberland) for standing awkwardly, Lord Hervey for not knowing what relation the Prince of Sultzbach was to the Elector Palatine, and then carried the Queen to walk and be re-snubbed in the garden." There are other domestic scenes like this in the *Memoirs*, and they come vividly before us when we visit these now empty rooms. The ill-tempered little King strutting about and snubbing everybody, the Queen submitting with her marvellous tact and goodness, the princesses lolling about, the young duke and Lord Hervey standing against the wall, the beautiful gardens with their avenues outside, and the pictures, some of which, as seen at the beginning of this century by Pyne, were of a questionable character, and to judge by some of his views, undoubtedly must have been anything but ornamental.

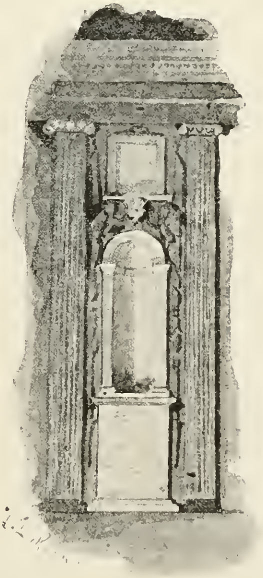

W. Luker junr.

CARVING IN THE PRESENCE CHAMBER,
KENSINGTON PALACE.

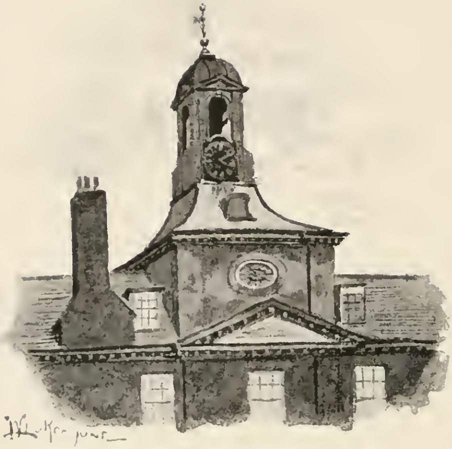


TOP OF STABLE GATE-POST, KENSINGTON PALACE.

THE old State apartments have not been used since the death of George II., which occurred here. They are now incredibly gloomy and ghostly. The pictures which once hung on the walls are gone to Hampton Court, the tapestry and furniture, including King William's writing-table, which was long shown in his closet, all have departed. A long passage used to lead from the outer porch to the entrance-hall, but this is now closed, and the staircase with its faded wall-paintings is now the first interior seen. On a gloomy day the strange old masquerading figures are hardly visible, but when the sun shines a face here and there comes out with startling distinctness. The painter's idea seems to have been to enhance the size of the staircase by representing archways crowded with people, as if looking on at a royal procession. The flat ceiling is painted to represent a dome, and other faces peer down through the skylight. The effect, when the paint was fresh, when the mouldings were clean and the gilding bright, may have been very good, at all events, it was the only thing possible, and Kent deserves at least the credit of having made the most of the resources at his command. We are expected to recognise a Quaker and a man in spectacles, Mr. Ulric, a page of Lady Suffolk, Peter the Wild Boy, and two blackamoors from Turkey. They are all more or less black now, and we can hardly make out the architect with his assistants or the "female of a very pleasing countenance, which is supposed to be a resemblance of an actress

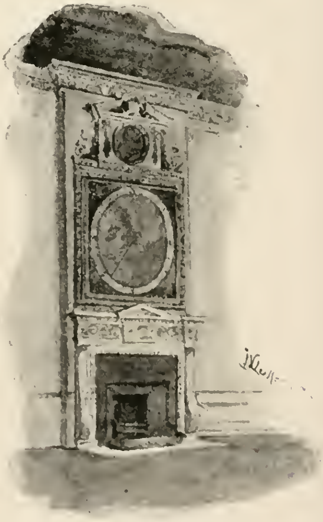


IN THE CUPOLA ROOM, KENSINGTON PALACE.

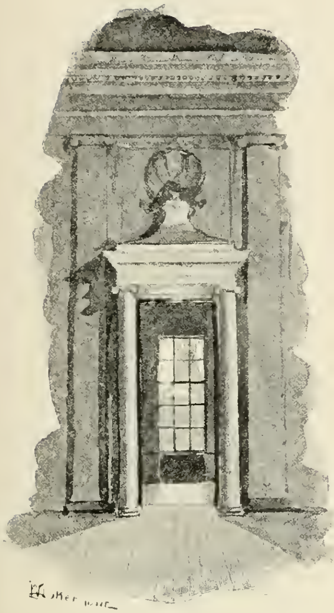


THE BELFRY, KENSINGTON PALACE.

with whom he lived in the habits of peculiar friendship, and to whom he left part of his fortune." So wrote Pyne in 1819; but the lady has almost faded away now. The presence chamber is chiefly remarkable for a Pompeian ceiling, also Kent's, and a beautifully-carved chimney-piece, evidently by Grinling Gibbons. The walls are bare and the floor creaks as we cross it. The doorways in Queen Caroline's drawing-room are handsome, and the view from the great window across the courtyard towards the archway and the turret with its weathercock is interesting if not pretty. Towards this weathercock George II. gazed anxiously to see if the wind had changed that the ship might come in with his German despatches. It was the last thing he did the morning he so suddenly died. A change of wind meant much more then than it does now, when steamers defy the elements. But the chief apartment is the Cube Saloon, or Cupola Room, as it is sometimes called,—a gaunt, gloomy place, thirty-seven feet square, looking into a little courtyard, but still showing traces and remains of former magnificence. The great marble niches once held gilt statues of heathen divinities—they stand in a row on the floor of an adjoining room now—and the fine Ionic columns of the doorways and the relief by Rysbrach, representing "A Roman Marriage," are still admir-

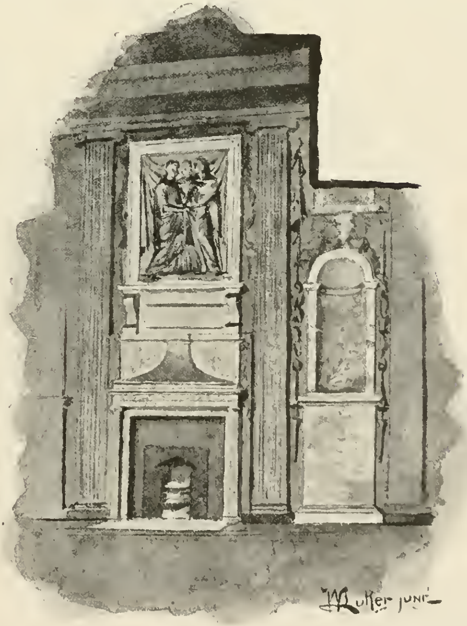


FIREPLACE IN THE KING'S GALLERY, KENSINGTON PALACE.



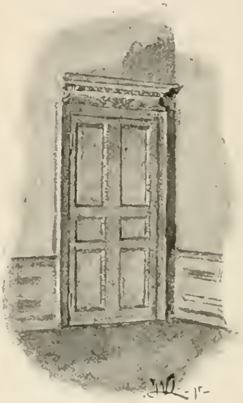
DOORWAY IN THE CUPOLA ROOM, KENSINGTON PALACE.

able. The King's Great Drawing-room looks out over the gardens towards the Round Pond, and must have been one of the most cheerful of the old rooms, but is now empty and bare, except for the story of Jupiter and Semele, which still adorns the ceiling. The most pleasing of all these apartments must have been the King's Gallery, of which only the painted ceiling remains, for the gallery has been cut into two or three modern rooms by partitions. The windows look south over the Sun-dial Lawn, towards the Alcove, through the avenue of elms, only that the dial and the Alcove and most of the elms are gone. It can hardly have been in this gallery that William III. was driven up and down by Lord Buckhurst in the character of a coach-horse. I do not think this south front was built in his time; otherwise the gallery, ninety-four feet long by twenty-four feet wide, would be just the right scenery for the background of a pretty story. William, hard at work in his cabinet, heard a knock at the door, on which he called out, "Who's there?" "Lord Buck," was the reply, in a child's voice. It was the little son of Lord Dorset. "What do you want?" "I want you to be a horse and draw my coach up and down the gallery. I have waited for you a long time." The King



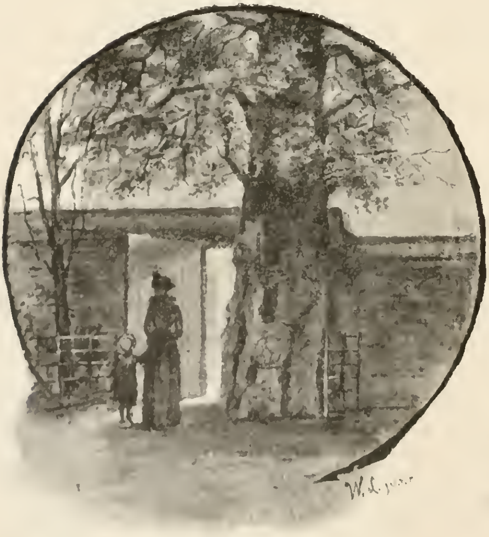
FIREPLACE IN THE CUPOLA ROOM, KENSINGTON PALACE.

did as he was told, and I am sure, if this was the gallery, both of them, the horse and his driver, must have been all the better of the exercise. This sunny chamber was, no doubt, the scene of many of the events described by Lord Hervey, and through these windows Queen Caroline must have often looked down upon the gay throng that crowded the garden below on a Sunday afternoon.


DOOR IN THE KING'S GALLERY, KENSINGTON PALACE.

A fire which took place soon after King William III. came to Kensington may have destroyed all vestiges of old Nottingham House; but there are some windows and doorways to be seen in the court as we come out that may well date from the time of Charles II. It is hardly possible to say what is Wren and what is Kent in the external architecture; but the general effect is very picturesque, and the palace suits the park in which it stands.

Miss Thackeray, in her *Old Kensington*, thus describes the palace chapel:—

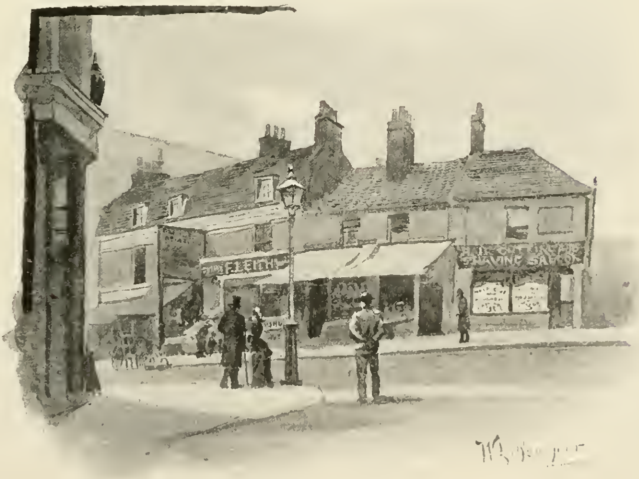

OLD SOUTH ENTRANCE TO KENSINGTON GARDENS.

"The clock began striking eleven slowly from the archway of the old palace; some dozen people are assembled together in the little palace chapel, and begin repeating the responses in measured tones. It is a quiet little place. The world rolls beyond it on its many chariot-wheels to busier haunts, along the great high-roads. As for the flesh and the devil, can they be those who are assembled here? They assemble to the sound of the bell, advancing feebly, for the most part skirting the sunny wall, past the sentry at his post, and along the outer courtyard of the palace, where the windows are green and red with geranium pots, where there is a tranquil glimmer of autumnal sunshine and a crowing of cocks. Then the little congregation turns in at a side door of the palace, and so through a vestibule, comes into the chapel of which the bell has been tinkling for some week-day service. It stops short, and the service begins quite suddenly as a door opens in the wall, and a preacher, in a white surplice, comes out and begins in a deep voice almost before the last vibrations of the bell have died away. As for the congregation, there is not much to note. There are some bent white heads, there is some placid middle-age, a little youth to brighten to the sunshine. The great square window admits a silenced light, there are high old-fashioned pews on either side of the place, and opposite the communion-table, high up over the heads of the congregation, a great square curtained pew, with the royal arms, and a curtained gallery."

It should be remembered that this is not the original chapel of the palace, which was removed during the residence of the Duchess of Kent, and stood on the site of the present private staircase.

The communion plate is very fine and abundant. The principal pieces date from the reigns of William III. and Queen Anne; a flagon and chalice with date marks of 1660 and 1664 being the earliest. They were presented by Queen Anne. A flagon with the date mark of 1692 was given by William and bears his initials. A paten was contributed by George I. in 1714, and a paten and alms-dish by George II. in 1736.

The following list of chap-

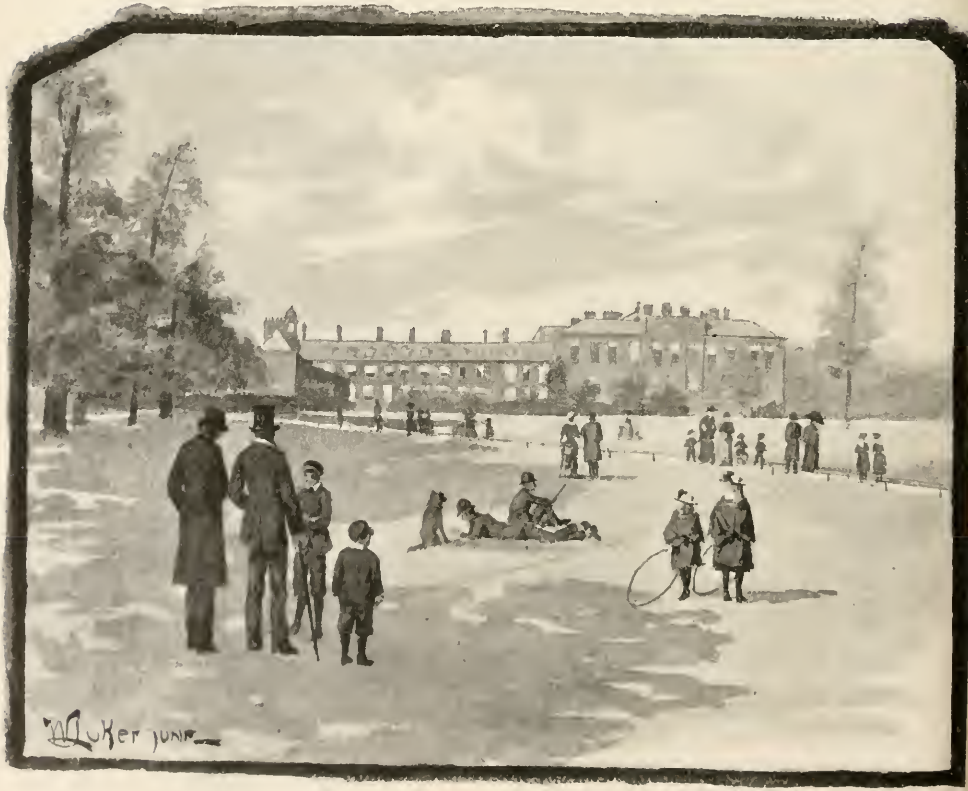


SILVER STREET.

lains was compiled and contributed to *Notes and Queries* by A. O. K. in July 1879:—

"Robert Blakeway, 1721-1736; Richard Ward, 1736-1756; J. Dimsdale, 1757; Seth Thompson, D.D., 1805; John Wetherall, LL.D., 1807-1833; Joseph Jackson, 1833-1854; John Barlow, 1854-1867; W. T. Bullock, 1867-1879; W. C. Bromehead, 1879;" and John Graves, who has just died (1888).

We may make another chronological note in concluding this chapter. Mary, the Queen and Consort of William III., died at Kensington Palace of smallpox, on the 27th December 1694, at the early age of thirty-three. Her husband survived her until 1702, and died here on the 8th March of that year.

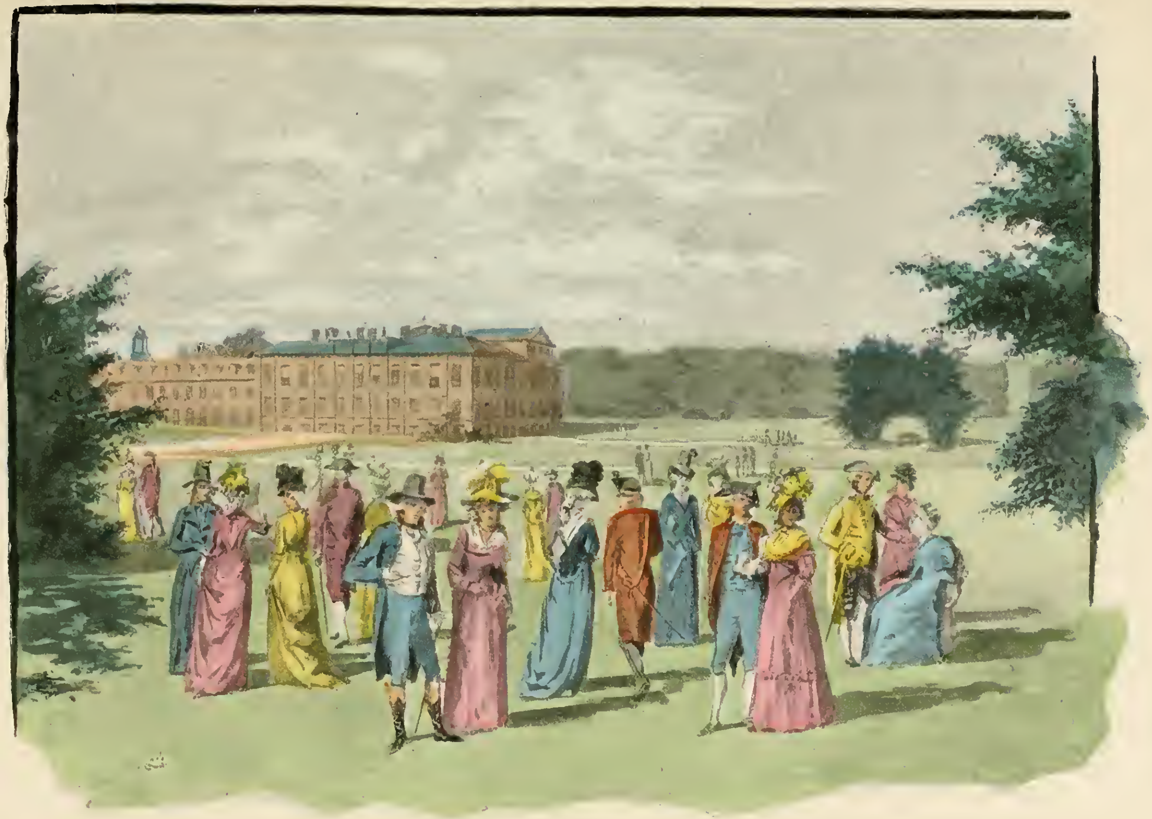


THE SOUTH FRONT OF KENSINGTON PALACE.

[illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] to *Notes and Queries* by [illegible] [illegible] 1879 :—

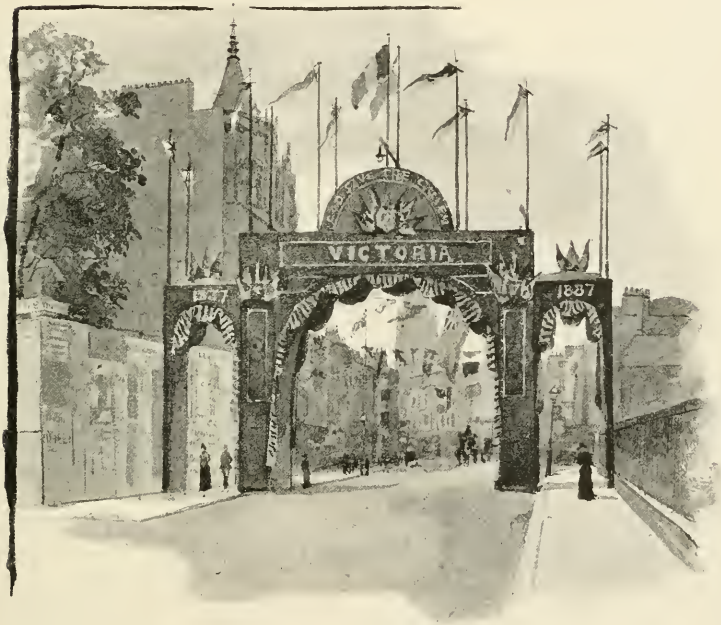
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Richard Wood, 1736; [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Thomson, LL.D., 1805; [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Joseph Jackson, 18[illegible]; [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] W. J. Bullock, 1867-1879; [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] who has had good [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] consort of William III., died at [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the 17th December 1694, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Her husband survived her [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the 8th March of that year.

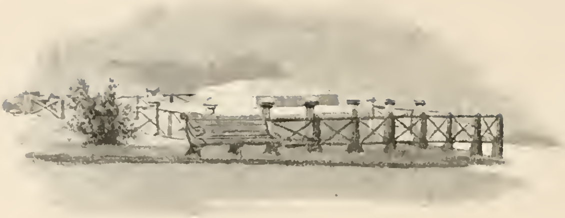


KENSINGTON PALACE,. 1793.

Prince George of Denmark, Duke of Cumberland, died here on the 28th October 1708, and his widow, Queen Anne, followed him on the 1st August 1714. George II., the last king who made Kensington his residence, died in the palace on the morning of the 25th October 1760.



THE JUBILEE ARCH, 1887.



DUKE OF SUSSEX'S TOMB, KENSAL GREEN.

CHAPTER VI

THE CHURCH

Why called "St. Mary Abbot's"—History of the Vicarage—An old site—The advowson—A survey of the Vicarage in 1260—A survey in 1610—A survey in 1689—The list of Vicars from 1260 to 1878—The Old Vicarage House—John Parsons, vicar, and Sebastian Harris, curate—The new Church—Its dimensions—Completion of the spire—The Communion Plate—The Bells—Former Churches on the site—The Monuments—List of those in the Church—List of Memorial Windows—Monuments in the Churchyard—The Vestry and Vestry Hall—The new Town Hall—The Charities: Methwold's, Young's, Jane Berkeley's—The Campden Charities—Cromwell's Gift—Thanet House—Churches in the Parish—List—The Pro-Cathedral—Dissenters' Chapels—Cemeteries—Kensal Green—Brompton.

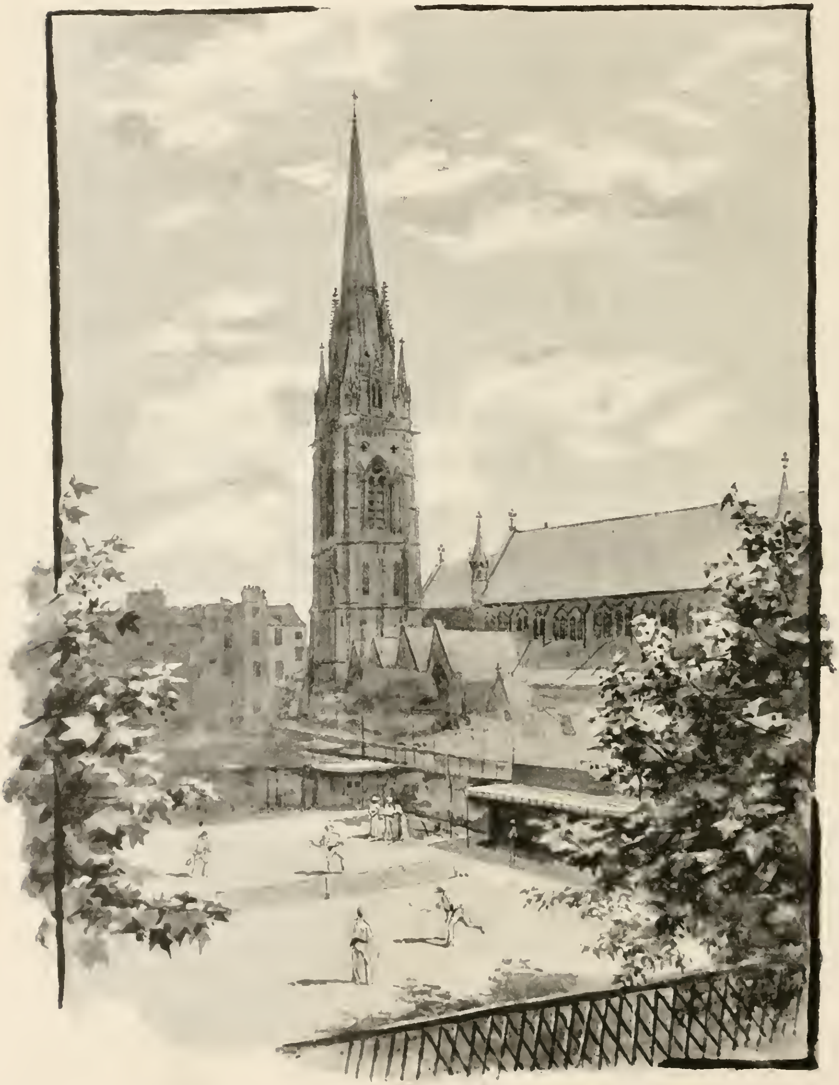
ALTHOUGH we are told in the Domesday Survey that there was a priest in Kensington, we do not read that there was any church. Now there are, besides chapels of various denominations, no fewer than thirty-four. There are ten Baptist, five Congregational, three Presbyterian, four Wesleyan, and seven Roman Catholic chapels, besides Unitarian, Swedenborgian, and other places of worship. The parish is divided into twenty-two ecclesiastical districts, of which the mother church is St. Mary Abbot's. All the others, with the exception of Holy Trinity,

IN KENSINGTON GARDENS.

Brompton, and St. Barnabas, have been built during the present reign, and a mere enumeration of them would fill several pages. We may pick out for notice only the more remarkable, and notice with them the schools, vestry-halls, cemeteries, and other institutions which have been more or less connected in their growth with our parochial system. The two great cemeteries of the west of London, Brompton and Kensal Green, are both within our borders; and two older cemeteries, one near the parish church, the other at Holy Trinity, have also to be visited.

I have already explained why the church has the addition of "Abbot's" to its dedication. So many churches were dedicated to "St. Mary" in the neighbourhood of London that each of them has some distinguishing "surname," and ours reminds us of the Abbot of Abingdon, and of how it comes to pass that we have a vicar as the spiritual head of our parish, and not a rector. The abbot and his monks sent one of their number to minister as their vicar among the people of their estate, and—assigning him a little land and part of the tithe to live on — put the profits of their property into the conventual treasury. We do not know when parishes were first divided in England, but it was at a very remote period, and, as I have endeavoured to point out, boundaries were still very indefinite in the twelfth century. Our parish extended but a very short way eastward of the site of the church, because the manor of Neyt, which belonged to Westminster, came so near on that side. But Kensington parish comprised the manor of Aubrey of Ver, just as Westminster parish comprised the manor of the Abbot of Westminster.

The history of the ecclesiastical benefice, or living as we generally call it, is of the greatest interest, because it reaches back so far and is so complete. In old times, under our native kings, the priest of a parish was, to all intents, the chaplain of the lord of the manor: just as, a little earlier, the bishop was the chaplain of the king. It is quite possible that a parson existed in Kensington while as yet there was a king of Middlesex, or at any rate of Essex and Middlesex, whose bishop was the Bishop of London. But, as I have already explained, the first notice we have of Kensington is in the records of the Domesday Survey. Here we read of the existence of the priest and of the endowment he had. The



ST. MARY ABBOT'S CHURCH, FROM MR. TUER'S TENNIS COURT.

entry is the more valuable as there is no mention of the church.

When the lord of a manor had a house, a church, and a priest, the church was often a wing of the house, and the parson lived close by. We may safely picture to ourselves some ancestor of Edwin, living in his manor-house, with his church close adjoining it,—and there is an old parish tradition that the original church stood to the northward of the present site—and with the priest's house near it. We know where the manor-house was. We know where the vicarage was and is. The church may well have stood somewhere between them: that is, between the barracks and the vicarage, which would answer very well to the tradition just mentioned. Traditions are not good as evidence: but they are excellent as corroboration. Edwin, or his ancestor, the lord of the manor, with his wife and children, dwelt in his manor-house among his servants and tenants bond or free; and near him dwelt the priest, also, in all probability, with his wife and children, and cultivated his farm of half a virgate. It is not easy to find a better example of the persistence of some of our English institutions than this. The lord of the manor has long disappeared: but our present respected vicar dwells with his family, as nearly as possible, on the same spot as that on which Edwin's priest dwelt perhaps a thousand years ago: and the vicarage or glebe is exactly now what it was when the survey was made by William the Conqueror in 1086, namely half a virgate.

A virgate, we know, was quarter of a hide; and a hide in Kensington was about one hundred and twenty acres: so that the priest's glebe of half a virgate would be about fifteen acres. Newcourt quotes two accounts of the glebe, one written in 1260 and one in 1610. The first is very tantalising: it tells us that Roger Westhorpe, the vicar, is possessed of a certain croft, which extends southwards from the house of the late Philip "de Fonte," to the king's highway leading to London, and bounded on the east by the land of the Abbot and Convent of Westminster, and on the west by the croft of a widow named Avice, a weaver: but it gives us no dimensions. In 1610 there is a vicarage house, with an orchard, a barn, and a stable; and adjoining them twelve acres of land. Twelve acres with the orchard and the site of the house is as nearly as possible the same as the half virgate of 1086.

The survey of 1260, just quoted, was made on the termination of a great dispute. We remember that Aubrey of Ver, when his eldest son Geoffrey died, gave to Abbot Faricius of Abingdon two hides and a quarter out of his Kensington manor, and the advowson of the church. The Abbot of Abingdon, no doubt, from that time appointed one of his monks vicar, and absorbed the great tithes: but in or about 1260, it was discovered by some acute ecclesiastical lawyer that though Aubrey had obtained the consent of the Pope to the transfer of the advowson, he had not obtained that of either the Bishop of London or the Archbishop of Canterbury. Whereupon various great and learned folk sat on the question, including the Bishop of Salisbury (Giles of Bridport) and the Dean of St. Paul's (Robert of Barnton), and a compromise was made. The Convent of Abingdon was to retain half the great tithes and the vicarage was to be in the gift of the Bishop of London.

The following account of the vicarage is very interesting. It is here reprinted from Faulkner, who took it from a manuscript in the possession of Mr. Rennell, the vicar.

An Account instead of a Terrier given in to the Lord Bishop of London, of the Tithes, Glebe, and of the Vicarage of Kensington.

Kensington is a Vicarage endowed.

The collation belongs to the Lord Bishop of London for ever.

By a composition made between the Abbot of Abingdon and the Vicar of Kensington, in the year 1260, it was agreed that the great tithes should be equally divided between them: and that the tithe of hay, and all the lesser tithes whatsoever, should belong to the Vicar.

This composition hath been observed constantly ever since.

The right to the half of the great tithes, formerly belonging to the Abbot, is now enjoyed by one Mr. Norman of London.

The demesne lands belonging to the Abbey at the time of the composition are tithe free.

The glebe of the Vicarage was presented by the jury of the homage for the manor of Abbot's Kensington, in 1672-1674, to be thirteen acres, but appears to have been more. For, according to the composition, it was bounded on the north side by the King's highway; of which it is now much short, it having, in times past, been dug away for gravel, and the Lord of the Manor claiming and enjoying the pit of many acres, as waste, on which several houses are now built.

Ten acres of land, more or less, in the parish of Chelsey, near the College, and in the possession of Mr. Green of Westminster, have, time out of mind, paid tithes to the Vicar of Kensington.

The Earl of Warwick and Holland, Lord of the Manor, claims the chancels, and burial for his family there, by what right is not known, unless of often repairing them; though the Viscount Cambden, in 1630, ceiled the great chancel, gave the east painted glass window, and the rails of the communion table (since destroyed).

1689. The Vicars have always enjoyed the right of burials in the chancels, and been paid the dues, unless for the family of the Earls of Holland.

The deed of the contract between the Abbot of Abingdon and the Vicar of Kensington is to be seen in the registry of the bishopric of London.

The land mentioned to belong to this parish, though lying in the parish of Chelsey, formerly in the possession of Mr. Green, hath been since bought by the King, and laid to the College or Royal Hospital of Chelsey. His Majesty paying forty shillings yearly, in lieu of the tithes, as Mr. Green formerly did. It hath hitherto been paid by the Lord Ranelagh, Paymaster to the Army for 1686-7-8.

> That the contents above are a true copy of the paper writ by the hand of the Rev. Mr. William Wigan, Vicar of Kensington, and one of the Prebendaries of Saint Paul's, is attested by me, who was well acquainted with his writing, having officiated as his reader in the church of Kensington, from August 30, 1672, to May 1694, and an inhabitant of Kensington from April 9, 1664, to this 12th day of December 1712.
>
> CHARLES SEWARD, Clerk.

The following list of Vicars is taken from Newcourt as far as 1700, and the rest from Faulkner and the *Parish Magazine*.

Rog. de Besthorp, vel Westorp (living in 1260).
Will. de Northton.

Hen. de Driffeld, 7 Kal. Jul. 1322, per resig. Northton.

Tho. de Ryseleppe, Diac. 4 Td. Apr. 1328.

Jo. Wyseman, pr. prid. Non. Jun. 1336, per res. Ryseleppe.

Joh. de Kernetby.

Gilb. Raulein, 4 Kal. Dec. 1363, per resig. Kernetby.

Wil. de Lydington, 5 Kal. Mar. 1370, per resig. Raulein. (This vicar rebuilt the church.)

Joh. Thomas.

Joh. Trigg, 19 Jan. 1372, per resig. Thomas.

Joh. Charleton, 11 Kal. Dec. 1373, per resig. Trigg.

Will. Garton.

Phil. Mongomery, 27 Sept. 1388, per resig. Garton.

Ric. Stokes, 8 Maii 1391, per resig. Mongomery.

Rog. Paternoster, 6 Mar. 1394, per. resig. Stokes.

Will. Tonge, pr. 5 Nov. 1395, per resig. Paternoster.

Hamo de la More, 15 Jul. 1396, per resig. Tonge.

Joh. Smyth, pr. 7 Nov. 1400.

Joh. Wellys.

Rob. Caldecott, 10 Nov. 1415, per resig. Wellys.

Dav. Spark, 3 Febr. 1418, per resig. Caldecott.

Will. Roper, pr. 15 Jun. 1432, per mort. ult. Vicarii.

Ric. Rumney, pr. penult Febr. 1443, per mort. Roper.

Ric. More, 28 Sept. 1451, per resig. Rumney.

Joh. Looke, pr. 19 Mar. 1461.

Rob. Cade.

Joh. Ifeld, 8 Nov. 1465, per resig. Cade.

Tho. Bractoft, D.B., 8 Oct. 1468, per resig. Ifeld.

Joh. Ifeld, cap. 2 Jul. 1469, per resig. Bractoft.

Edm. Aspis, pr. 11 Jun. 1484, per resig. Ifeld.

Joh. Sampson, cap. 5 Sept. 1492, per mort. ult. Vic.

Joh. Judson.

Joh. Parsons, cap. 20 Jun. 1519, per resig. Judson.

Tho. Batemanson, pr. 13 Jan. 1556, per mort. Parsons.

Geo. Leeds, cl. 19 Nov. 1558, per mort. Batemanson. (The tall cup, the oldest object among the communion plate in the church, dates from 1559, in this vicar's incumbency.)

Leonard Watson, A.M., 18 Nov. 1563.

Hen. Hopkins, cl. 4 Jan. 1571, per mort. Watson.

Hen. Withers, A.M., 31 Jan. 1571, per resig. Hopkins.

Ric. Etkins, 25 Apr. 1608, per resig. Withers.

Tho. Hodges, A.M., 11 Jun. 1641, per resig. Etkins.

Will. Wigan, cl. 31 Aug. 1672, per mort. Hodges.

Joh. Millington, A.M., 20 Maii 1700, per mort. Wigan.

Robert Tyrwhit, 1728. (The Earl of Warwick claimed the presentation on Wigan's death, but the Court of Chancery upheld the bishop's right.)

John Wilcox, 1731.

John Jortin, D.D., 1762. (Dr. Jortin, an eminent preacher and church historian: Boyle lecturer, chaplain to the Bishop of London, Prebendary of Harlesden, and Archdeacon of London. He wrote a *Life of Erasmus* and a work on *Ecclesiastical History*. He set a good example in wishing to be buried outside the church, and was laid, at his death, in the new part of the churchyard, having composed this epitaph for himself: "Johannes Jortin mortalis esse desiit anno salutis 1770, ætatis 72." "John Jortin ceased to be mortal in the year of salvation 1770, and of his age 72.")

James Waller, D.D. (Archdeacon of Essex: killed at Bromfield, Essex, in 1795, by the fall of a chimney. The brick tower of the old church was built in his time.)

Richard Ormerod. (Died in 1816.)

Thomas Rennell. (A very eminent preacher and writer, B.D. and F.R.S., commemorated in the church by a bust by Chantrey. Died 1824.)

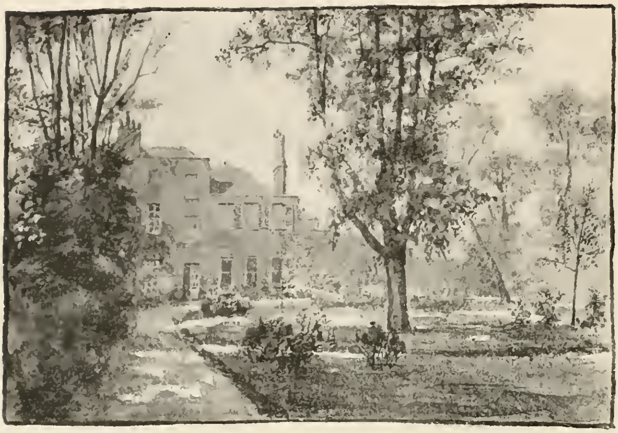
Joseph Holden Pott. (Archdeacon of London, resigned 1842, and died 1847.)

John Sinclair. (Archdeacon of Middlesex. Died at the vicarage, 22 May 1875. The projector and builder of the present parish church, commemorated in the west window, and by a bust by Bell.)

William Dalrymple Maclagan. (Had served as an officer in the army in India: chaplain to the Bishop of London, who appointed him on the death of Archdeacon Sinclair. He is the first vicar of Kensington raised to the Episcopal bench, and thus it is the only instance of the crown presenting to the living, which, being under £20 in the King's books, falls to the Lord Chancellor's gift. He built the church tower and spire.)

The Honourable Edward Carr Glyn. (Appointed by the crown, 1878.)

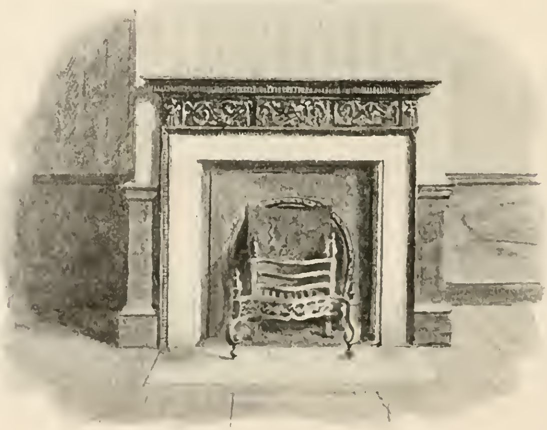
The old Vicarage House is well shown in Roque's map. It stood between York House and the orphanage, which now occupies the site of Mr. Magniac's house. The inner or northern part dated back to the time of James I., being part of what is described in the passage above as standing in 1610. The southern part, which was of very ordinary character, but solid and comfortable, was built in 1774. The whole was pulled down, and the straight road to Brunswick Gardens was run through the site in 1877. The new vicarage stands a little



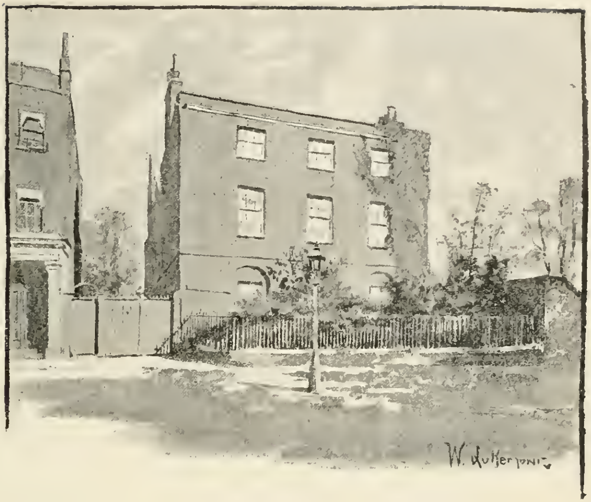
THE OLD VICARAGE, FROM THE GARDENS.

to the east within extensive grounds, and comprises a spacious hall for parochial purposes. The architecture is Gothic of a kind neither very pretty to look at nor yet very convenient to live in, but in both these respects some improvements were effected in 1885.

It may be taken as a sign of the healthiness of the parish that from the Reformation to the year 1875 there were only eighteen vicars of Kensington. This gives an average of twenty years to each incumbency. John Parsons must have been a very Vicar of Bray: he was here for the longest time, namely from 1519 to 1555. It is bewildering to think of all that went on, in the church especially, during those seven-and-thirty years. Henry VIII. had been ten years on the throne when "Sir John Parsons" came to Kensington. He was previously rector of Little Ilford, in Essex, which living he resigned in 1488. I cannot trace him between that year and the date of his appointment to Kensington; but one thing



FIREPLACE IN THE OLD VICARAGE.

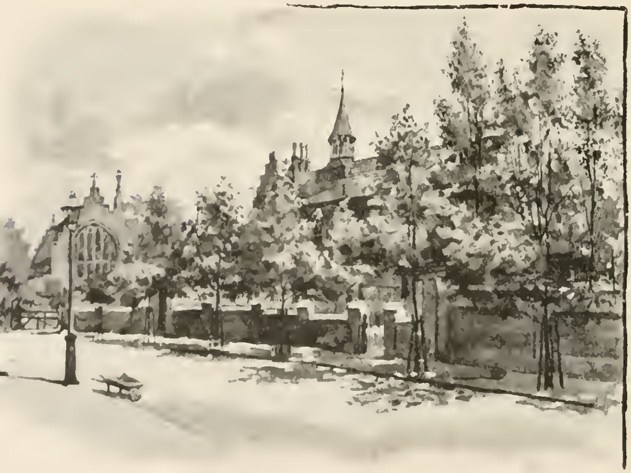

W. Luker junr.

THE OLD VICARAGE, FROM CHURCH STREET.

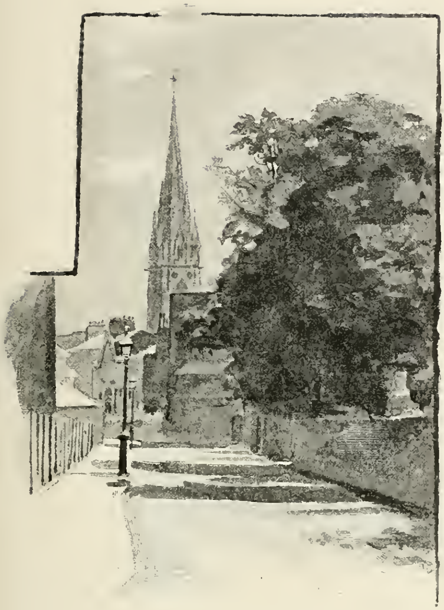
seems to be certain about him, namely, that he kept himself carefully out of the religious troubles of the time, though even his curate Sebastian Harris was involved in them. Between 1519 and 1556, Henry VIII., Edward VI., and Queen Mary I. reigned over England, so that he must have witnessed or heard of Henry's controversy with Luther (1521), Tyndale's translation of the Bible (1525), the fall of Wolsey (1529), the royal supremacy (1531), the suppression of the monasteries (1536 and 1539), the adoption of the Book of Common Prayer (1548), and at least the outbreak of Mary's fanaticism and the persecution of the Protestants. Archbishop Cranmer was burnt at Oxford in 1556, the year after our vicar's death.

Of Sebastian Harris, his curate in 1527, very little is known, except that in the Harleian collection is a manuscript describing proceedings against him for having in his possession a New Testament in English, printed according to the document by William Hechym, but no such name is known to bibliographers. A New Testament in English, after Tyndale's version, was printed, as is supposed, at Worms by Peter Schoeffer in 1526, and two surreptitious editions quickly followed it. Examples, or rather fragments, of all three are of the greatest rarity, and it is quite possible that poor Sebastian Harris really had obtained a copy of an edition which has now absolutely disappeared. And no wonder, for we read that the unfortunate curate having this Testament, and a volume called *Unio Dissidentium* which contained all the doctrines of Lutheranism, was summoned before the vicar-general at St. Paul's and ordered to make oath that he would neither retain, sell, nor lend these books ; and, as a punishment for merely possessing them, he was ordered to leave London directly, and not to come with four miles of the city for two years. As Kensington was, and is, more than five miles from London, we may suppose the limit was so fixed that the suspected heretic might retain his post as curate of Kensington. It should be mentioned that one of Tyndale's assumed names was William Hytchins, and that probably either the copier or the printer is responsible for the name Hechym, which appears in Faulkner and other books.

The present parish church, as rebuilt in 1869 and the following years down to 1881, is a magnificent example of the revived Gothic style. It shows us what architectural revival can do, and equally plainly what it cannot do. An old Gothic church grew up slowly : it was the combined result of a number of different designs, and was built, not in ten years, by one architect, in one specially selected style, but by many architects, in the course of centuries, and each working in what he considered the best and therefore the only possible style, that, namely, of his own time. Very few of our old churches were completed according to a single design: though in many cases the destroyer, under the name of "restoration," has rasped them down to uniformity. The most uniform of our cathedrals, Salisbury, has twice undergone this process, with



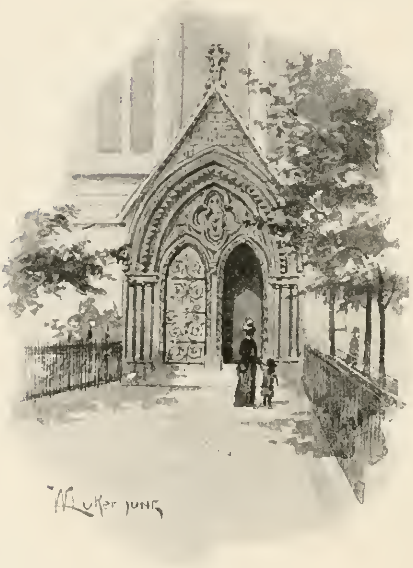
THE VICARAGE.



HOLLAND STREET.

a most saddening result: and countless parish churches have similarly been ruined by architects who thought that because one window was first pointed all should also be lancets, and took away everything else; or who, having a favourite style of their own, French or Italian, sometimes restored old English work into something wholly different from what it could ever have been before.

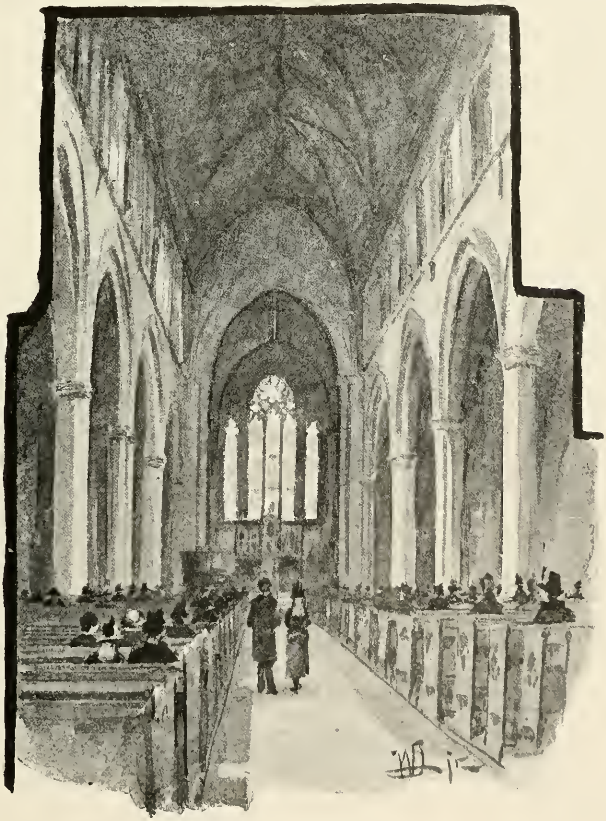
These being my views on the most prominent side of the so-called "Great Gothic Revival" of our own day, I cannot unreservedly admire a building in which as compared with an old Gothic church I recognise so many faults. St. Mary's is all in the same kind of modern Gothic: a kind which I have not seen in any one ancient building, though it certainly resembles parts of several. The colossal size of the church is, in obedience to a fanciful idea, frittered away by annexes which gradually, so to speak, bring it to the ground, or literally degrade it. This is a fundamental mistake. The architect who designs a church in what he believes to be the style in vogue in, say, the first year of the fourteenth century, and adds side chapels of the same date to the central design, spoils both, and commits an evident anachronism, for the side chapels of a genuine Gothic church were either put on afterwards, generally by another hand, or were survivals from some older building. If it be objected that an architect could not be expected to put two styles into the same church, the answer is simply that the whole thing is already a make-believe or sham, and to sham the growth of a church, especially when it would greatly increase its picturesqueness, would have been no more wrong than to sham the church itself. This congeries of roofs and gables gives us no picturesqueness because, as I have said, they lower the central roof, and because they are so evidently of the same period and style. When we enter the church we find that notwithstanding the appearance of the exterior, it is a single vast room, with hardly the semblance of side aisles and with no side chapels. It is a modern church, and the ground-plan might as well have been Wren's as Sir Gilbert Scott's. The reader may object by saying "Gothic" was the only style possible, and that the architect had no alternative. That of course was his business: I speak merely as the humble critic. It is not my place to suggest an alternative, but only, if I can, to justify my opinion of the new church.



PORCH OF ST. MARY ABBOT'S CHURCH.

A second and even greater fault must be pointed out, and then we may have done with fault-finding. The new church does not in any way suit its position. I cannot believe that the architect, when he got the commission to make a design for a new church here, ever came to look at the site, and to lay out his design so as to make the most of it. The place has its merits and its defects. There was plenty of space, and the corner, though small, was sufficiently important at the junction of two great thoroughfares, to have been worthy of special treatment. But the church as we see it has nothing to say to the corner. No one could even guess it had been designed for such a site. To tell the truth, I do not myself, judging from some other designs of the architect, believe that it was. Sir Gilbert Scott had a design by him for a great Gothic church for a suburban parish: a suburban parish wanted a design for a great Gothic church. That was all. The result is that the principal front is seldom seen, and that though the pathway from the most frequented entrance has been thrice altered to try and bring the street nearer, an awning has to be put up whenever a procession passes from the one to the other. There is no reason why the church should not have shown its best features to the corner, nor is there any why it should not have offered some more convenient way of access from the street. The finest thing about the whole design is the magnificent spire, but it is put in the wrong place, and might conceivably have been used both to mark the corner and also to communicate with the street, and form a noble porch. No, it is but too evident that this splendid and costly church was not designed for this place, perhaps not for any particular place.

Having said so much by way of a critical protest, I will now endeavour impartially to describe St. Mary Abbot's church as a credit to the exertions of the parishioners and a splendid example of self-denial and liberality. In a parish which boasts of thirty-two church-


IN ST. MARY ABBOT'S.

es, some of them magnificent, it was not easy to determine to surpass them all: but this is what the vicar and his people undertook to do, and St. Mary's is, what it might easily have failed to be, the worthy mother church, and stands to the rest as a cathedral among country villages.

From the western entrance to the extreme eastern end of the chancel the church is 179 feet long, its greatest breadth at the transepts being 109 feet. The nave is 73 feet high, and is covered with a wooden vault of great beauty. It may be worth noticing that the gable end of the nave is exactly as high as the top of the old church tower, namely 82 feet. The new steeple rises to the magnificent altitude of 278 feet, of which the square tower is 112, the spire 152, and the cross 14 feet. The angle at the summit is ten degrees.

The church was finished and ready for divine service early in May 1872, and on Tuesday the fourteenth of that month it was opened. The spire was not completed until seven years and six months had elapsed, and with them the incumbency of Mr. Maclagan, who had succeeded Archdeacon Sinclair in 1875, and was promoted to the see of Lichfield in 1878. The top stone was laid on Saturday the 15th November 1879, by the new vicar the Hon. and Rev. Edward Carr Glyn, who was presented on the occasion with a silver trowel, by an anonymous friend to the undertaking. Besides Mr. Glyn, the following gentlemen had the bravery to ascend to the summit of the scaffoldings and assist in the proceedings: Rev. W. Law, Rev. W. E. Haigh, Rev. R. M. Norman, Rev. C. T. Ackland, Rev. C. Darby Reade; Mr. R. H. Pearson and Mr. Jubal Webb, the churchwardens; General Taylor, Mr. Wyndham Gibbes, Mr. F. Leach, Dr. Macnamara, Dr. Dudfield, Mr. Luck, Mr. J. C. Merriman, Mr. Arthur Roberts, Mr. Elliot, Mr. Green, Mr. Harding, Mr. Stock, Mr. Dore the contractor, his foreman fixer of the stone, two masons, and a correspondent of the *Times*. While the vicar offered two short collects at the summit of the spire, one of his curates, Mr. Wingate, repeated the same simultaneously in the church below, a signal bell sounding at the moment when the top stone was pronounced to have been "well and truly laid." A peal of bells was speedily hung, and on the 11th November 1881 the building committee met for the last time, and, the whole cost of the new church having been paid, the account was finally closed.

The whole cost of the church was only £50,000, including £21,000 for the steeple. The architect received £1250. He died before the completion, in 1878.

There are only three parish churches in England whose spires exceed that of Kensington in height. They are: Coventry, which rises to 303 feet; Grantham, to 288; and St. Mary Redcliffe, to 280. Only two cathedral spires exceed Kensington: Salisbury 404 feet, and Norwich 313; but the dome of St. Paul's rises to a height of 365 feet. Kensington church stands on ground which is 52 feet above the level of the sea.

Among the stained glass windows three have been presented by subscription of Confirmation Classes, one by a Bible Class, and two by admirers of the late Archdeacon Sinclair and John Hunter respectively.

The brass lectern, in the orthodox form of the eagle of St. John, is copied from the well-known ancient example in the chapel of University College, Oxford. It is intended for a monument and bears this inscription :—

In piam memoriam Elizæ France conjugis dilectissimæ, I.F.F.

The old church staves, topped with silver statuettes of the Virgin Mary, were presented in the churchwardenship of John Edwards and Charles Barber, 1792, whose names they bear, and the simple inscription :—

GOD SAVE THE KING.

In 1879 the parishioners completed the reredos with figures of the four evangelists in mosaic as a memorial to the late vicar. The Bishop of Lichfield on leaving the parish presented the fresco painting "Feed my Sheep," on the north side of the chancel, a smaller one next the sedilia, on the southern side, being presented by Mr. Maurice Powell. On the east wall, on either side of the communion table, is a beautiful mosaic panel representing a choir of angels, placed here "in memory of Sarah White by her husband and children," in 1882.

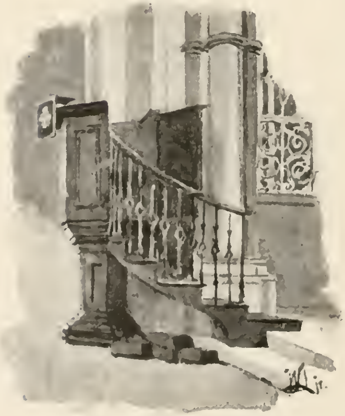
The King's Arms, painted and presented to the parish by a Mr. Parker, are, in a thoroughly restored condition, still hung in the vestry.

The font was paid for by a fund specially collected by two ladies of the congregation, Mrs. John Merriman and Miss Ingelow. The old font is incorporated in the design. A canopy and cover were presented in 1881 and bear this brief inscription:—

In loving memory of John Merriman and Caroline his wife.

The pulpit is from the old church. Genuine Gothic pulpits are of great rarity, and I have little doubt that this is the first that ever stood in any Kensington church. Some panels inlaid with the monograms of William III. and the Princess Anne, and the letter K, with a rose and a star, have been inserted with the date 1697, and are said to have been the king's gift.

The Communion Plate is very fine and was carefully described by the greatest living authority on the subject, Mr. Wilfrid Cripps, in the *Parish Magazine* in 1879. The oldest piece has on it the date 1599 and is a tall cup "ornamented all over with escallop shells in repoussé work, being a beautiful example of the prevailing fashion of its day." Next to this comes a very handsome tankard with the date mark of 1619. Mr. Cripps observes that the names of the givers or purchasers of these two fine pieces have not been preserved, "but here we have the parish in possession of a splendid cup and an equally valuable tankard or flagon by the year 1620."



PULPIT IN ST. MARY ABBOT'S CHURCH.

A spoon "used for taking any foreign body out of the wine" has a button-shaped top, after the fashion of the time, and is dated 1657. "It is curious to note that at Hackney parish church there is a similar spoon made the same year and by the same silversmith." In addition to these there is a plain small cup made in 1683. It has that date and the letter "K" on the foot, "showing that it was made for the parish, or acquired when newly made." A large plain flagon bears this inscription: "This flaggon was bought in y^e yeare of our Lord 1685. John Dikins, William Munden, Ch. wardens." It was made the same year. An alms-dish bears this inscription: "This bason was bought for y^e use of y^e Communion Table in y^e church of Kensington, Aug. 11th, 1690. John White, William Cox, Churchwardens." The date mark is of the same year.

In 1698, a plain paten, or alms-plate, was presented by Elizabeth Knightley. It bears arms on a lozenge denoting that the giver was a widow: "Quarterly, ermine and paly of six, or and gules," being the arms of the well-known Northamptonshire family of that name, with, on the wife's side, "a lion rampant." A Sir Edmund Knightly had been connected with the parish, as his wife, Dorothy Nevill, was one of the coheirs of the Veres. But he left no children, and the occurrence of the name on the alms-plate cannot be ascribed to him. Another presentation consists of a tall silver cup, with a cover which may serve as a paten. They bear the same date mark. The cover has on it the crest of Verney, a man's head, and the cup has the arms of Verney and Bretton. They were given by Christina Bretton, wife of John Verney, son and heir of Lord Willoughby de Broke. Lastly, there is a small alms-dish or basin, of the same date, probably made at Lubeck, which, Mr. Cripps thinks, was presented by William III., to whose generosity our parish "is indebted for the beautiful pulpit of inlaid wood which has graced our successive parish churches from that day to this."

The bells are hung in the steeple, and consist of a peal of eight, in the key of E. They were cast by Thomas Janaway in 1772. Each of them bears his name and a verse or a couplet:—

1. Prosperity to the Parish of Kensington.

2. When from the earth our notes resound
The hills and valleys echo round.

3. Musica est mentis medicina.

4. Intactum sileo, percute dulce cano.

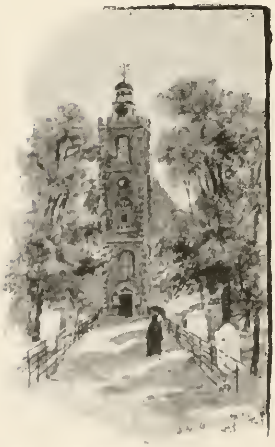
5. Let Aaron's bells continually be rung,
The word still preacht and Hallelujah sung.

6. The ringer's art and grateful notes prolong,
Apollo listens and approves the song.

7. Ye rulers that are put in trust
To judge of rong and right
Be all your judgement true and just,
Regarding no man's might.

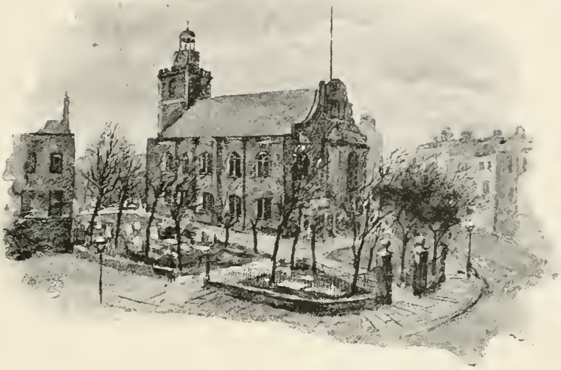
8. Be it known to great and small
Thomas Janaway made us all.

John Lessingham, Esq., gave Twenty Pounds.
Cast July 1772 by Subscription.
Rev. J. Waller, D.D., Vicar.
John Stokes and William Simpson, churchwardens.



OLD KENSINGTON CHURCH TOWER.

Very full accounts of the four parish churches which have successively occupied the same site were given in the *Parish Magazine* in 1881. When Abbot Faricius of Abingdon had received from Aubrey of Ver the gift of the church and two hides and a quarter of land in Kensington, we can imagine that a small building, round arched, partly of timber, was enough for the population. In 1370 it was wholly or in part rebuilt, no doubt in the pointed style of the time. The tower of this building survived till 1772. Bowack, writing in 1705, says of it: "What the church was formerly may be guessed by the old tower now standing,



OLD KENSINGTON CHURCH.

which has some appearance of antiquity, and looks like the architecture of the twelfth or thirteenth centuries, being cut low, and built of flint and rough stone, with little art or order. The old church lately standing (1696) was of the same workmanship, and had little in it worth taking notice of except its age."

Faulkner gives an account of the successive repairs and rebuildings:—

"In the year 1683, the inhabitants, finding their church too small for the accommodation of the increasing population, built a new aisle on the south side, by licence of the Bishop of London, dated May 29th of that year.

"In the beginning of the year 1695, it was found expedient to pull down the north aisle and the chancel, to build another instead of it of larger dimensions.

"In the year following, viz. 1696, it was resolved to take down the whole church, excepting the stone tower at the west end. The expense was defrayed partly by subscription. King William gave £300; the Princess Anne, £100; Earl Craven, £100; the Bishop of London, £50; and the Earl of Warwick, £40: the whole charge amounted to £1800.

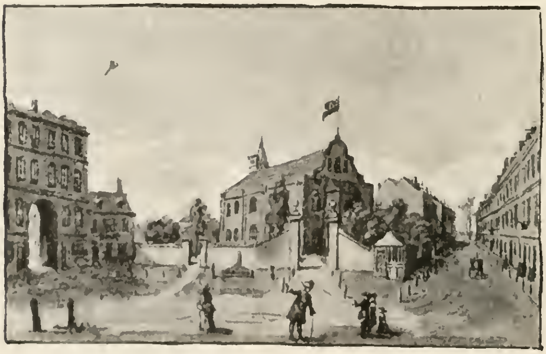
"Bowack, who visited this church in 1705, thus describes it:—

"The church thus rebuilt, was in form quadrangular, somewhat broader than it was long, being eighty feet from the north to south, and hardly seventy from east to west, paved handsomely with purbeck stone, the pewing and galleries made very neat and convenient, and the pulpit and chancel handsomely adorned with carving and painting."

In 1704 this church was in a precarious condition; and the parishioners had to repair it very thoroughly. In 1772, what a hundred years later would have been called "a thorough restoration" took place, the old tower being taken down and rebuilt. In 1811, again a general reparation was made, the walls were underpinned, the vaults rebuilt, and the interior painted and decorated in a uniform manner. This cost £5000, which was guaranteed and paid up in three years by a church rate of sixpence in the pound. Faulkner gives the names of the guarantors, which I copy, as it is always interesting to see the names of old parishioners, particularly those of so much "credit and renown."

Mr. William Smith	£200	John Battye	£100
John Hall	200	Robert Ashton	100
Sam. E. Sketchley	200	William Warwick	100
Sam. Hutchins	200	H. N. Willis	100
George Aust	200	William Mair	100
John Alexander	200	Richard Chace	100
Rev. R. Ormerod	100	John S. Torriano	100
Rev. Dr. Hamilton	100	Thomas Baxter	100
Edw. G. Lutwyche	100	John Erskine	100
D. R. Payne, Ex^{rs}	100	W. Smith, Ch. Wn.	100
Stephen Goddard	100	A. R. Robinson	100
William Doe	100	Rev. Dr. J. Thomson	100

This church, which many of us remember well, was of brick, not only without any architectural pretensions, but without architectural features except a semicircular gable at the east end, next the street. Below this gable a small chancel projected. There was a railing along the south side of the churchyard, and a wall ran up Church Street, with a gate, over which an iron hoop held a lamp, at the northern end. The parish stocks once stood near the corner, where there was a low pedimented building in which the sexton kept his grave-digging implements.



ST. MARY ABBOT'S CHURCH (FROM AN OLD PRINT).

When the older church was destroyed in

1696 the old monuments were in great part destroyed with it. A few are preserved, however, in the pages of Weever, Bowack, and Strype.

Maud de Berford gist icy
Dieu de s'alme eit mercy. Amen.

Here under lyeth Philip Meawtis, the son and heir of John Meawtis, oone of the Secretaries to the Kings, Henry the Seventh and Henry the Eighth, Clerk of hys Counsel, and oone of the Knights of Windsor. Whyche Philip decesseyd the eight of Nouember, M.D.X. on whose Soul Jesu have mercy. Amen.

Hic Jacent Robertus Rose et Eliz.——Richardus Schardeburgh et Elizabetha Uxor ejus, ac Robertus Schardeburgh Filius——eorundum Richardi et Elizabetha, que quidem Richardus Obiit. XI. die Decem. M.CCCC.LIII. quorum animabus propitietur altissimus.

Here lyes Adwin Laverock of Callis, Cousin to John Meautas of Kensington, and french secretary to King Hen. the VIIth whyche decesseyd on Seynt Stephen's Day, M.CCCC.L.XXXXIII. on whose soul God have mercy. Amen.

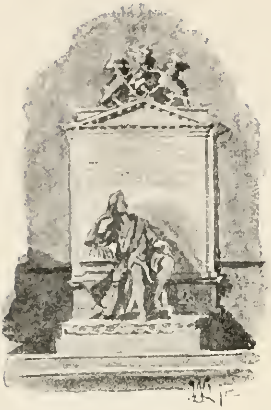
In the worship of God our Ladie
Say for all Christen Souls a Pater Noster and an Avie.

Hic Jacet Thomas Essex Armiger Filius et heres Gulielmeo Essex. Armigeri, Rememeratoris Domini Regis Edwardi—Quarti in Saccario, ac vice thesaurar. Angliæ, qui Obiit 25 November 1500.

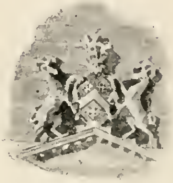
Que sola virgineo nata Laudamus honore,
Me protegens Nato fundito vota tuo.

Accept our praise, sole virgin though a wife
Pray to thy son, protectress of my life.

Much greater care was taken in 1869. When the new church was about to be commenced every tablet and monument, within or without, was carefully removed and preserved ; and, with the addition of some modern brasses and other memorials and stained glass windows, the dead worthies of our parish are kept in memory. As so many came from the old church, it may be well to notice the monuments at once before proceeding to a description of the new church itself. An alphabetical list appears below, taken from the *Parish Magazine*, and I need only here notice at length those which present features of interest or



THE RICH MONUMENT IN ST. MARY ABBOT'S CHURCH.



ARMS ON THE RICH MONUMENT IN ST. MARY ABBOT'S CHURCH.

importance. The largest and finest stands in a south chapel by itself, and commemorates the Rich family in general and Edward Henry, Earl of Warwick and Holland, in particular. This was Addison's stepson. He is represented "in a Roman habit, sitting, resting his right arm on an urn." There is a handsome shield of arms on the monument, which used to stand against the east wall, south of the altar. The epitaph is very long and in Latin, and would lead us to believe that the character of the young earl, who died in 1721, aged only twenty-four, cannot have been what it was generally represented. "Cum nihil defuit ad summam laudem nisi longa vita," he was snatched away by a heavy fever. These tablets are connected with the monument:—

> Underneath lies interred, in the family vault, the remains of The RIGHT HONOURABLE EDWARD EARL of WARWICK and HOLLAND, Baron Rich of Leigh in Essex, and Baron of Kensington, who departed this life the 7th of September, 1759, in the 65th year of his age, leaving only one daughter, the titles became extinct.
>
> Also the remains of MARY COUNTESS of WARWICK, relict of the above Edward Earl of Warwick and Holland, &c., who departed this life the 7th of November, 1769, in the 82d year of her age.
>
> Also the remains of THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LADY CHARLOTTE RICH, the only daughter of the above, the last Earl and Countess of Warwick and Holland, who departed this life April 12th, 1791, aged 78.

In the chancel was also interred Francis, Earl of Godolphin, the husband of the Duke of Marlborough's eldest daughter, in her own right Duchess of Marlborough. He died in 1766.

Another monument relates to the Colby family, already mentioned.

On an elegant carved marble tablet, ornamented with foliage and cherubim:

Here lyeth,
in a vault under this pew,
the bodies of
PHILIP COLBY, Esq.
and ELIZABETH his wife.
Also of THOMAS COLBY, Esq., his brother,
and several others of the family.

This monument was erected in memory of them by Sir Thomas Colby,
Bart., son of the abovesaid Philip and Elizabeth,
anno 1727.

The abovesaid Sir THOMAS COLBY, Bart., died Sept. 23, 1729, and is
here interred.

Arms.—Az. a chevron between three escallop-shells, within a border engrailed or, impaling az. within an orle of fleur de lis or, a lion rampant arg. for Flewellin. Mrs. Colby and her elder sister Mrs. Buttock were coheirs of Alderman Flewellin.

Two old parishioners must not be omitted. The epitaph of the first was on a pillar in the old church:—

Sacred to the Memory of Robert Phillimore, Esq., of this Parish, who died August 10, 1779, Aged 80 Years. In him was combined the fruit of the Spirit, Love, Joy, Peace, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance, and Charity.

The second was on the west wall:—

In Memory of John Hall, Esq., of Halkin Street, Grosvenor Place, and of Notting Hill in this Parish: for those who remember him, that name were his best Epitaph, to others it may be useful to record, that John Hall was one, who in life by good works, and by fervent faith in death, proved that the source of virtue is in the love of God.

O friend in life's alternate seasons tried,
Who lived for all, for all too early died;
Fond nature weeps that here thy prospects fade,
And death debars thee from the long sought shade;
But faith reflects, to thee on earth was given,
To toil and suffer, thou hast rest in heaven.

He died the 10th August 1816, Aged 54 years.

John Hall and Robert Phillimore were both lessees of farms in the parish. Hall's was near the spot where St. John's Notting Hill stands now. Phillimore's was on the southern slope of Campden Hill, and is identified by the local names. William Phillimore, his son, also buried here, inherited Kendalls in Herts, the future country-seat of his descendants, from his mother, Elizabeth Jephson, and died in 1818.

Another interesting monument is that of the Colmans :—

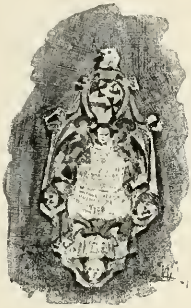
> Near this place are deposited the remains of His Excellency FRANCIS COLMAN, formerly British Minister to the Court of Florence ; who died at Pisa in the year of our Lord 1733 ; and of his wife, MARY COLMAN, daughter of John Gumley of Isleworth, and sister to Anne Maria late Countess of Bath, who died May 3, 1767. Near this place also are deposited the remains of SARAH COLMAN, wife of George Colman, who departed this life March 29, 1771. To their Memories this marble is inscribed, in testimony of the duty and affection of a son and husband, by George Colman, 1772.

This George Colman was the dramatic author who is generally distinguished from his son of the same name as George Colman the elder. He was the writer of the *Jealous Wife:* his son is best remembered by his tales in verse entitled *Broad Grins.* Francis Colman, the ambassador, is said to have set a literary example to his descendants, since he wrote the words to Handel's *Acis and Galatea.* The names of the two Georges are added on the monument. The elder died 14th August 1794, the younger on 26th October 1836, at 22 Brompton Square, the same house in which Shirley Brooks afterwards lived. An earlier generation of Colmans, John and Anne, the parents of Francis, were also buried in the church.

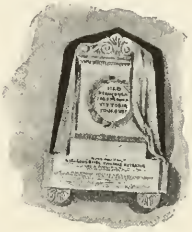
A tablet in the south aisle commemorates "Mr. William Mason, late coachman of her Majesty Queen Victoria, who died April 12, 1838, having served forty-eight years in the royal establishment." It was put up by the Queen's commands.

Another tablet bears the name of James Mill, who died

23d June 1836, and whose son, John Stuart Mill, attained a world-wide fame.



TABLET TO COLIN CAMPBELL IN ST. MARY ABBOT'S CHURCH.



TABLET TO COL. HUTCHINS IN ST. MARY ABBOT'S CHURCH.

In the south porch are tablets to Reginald Spofforth, the composer, best remembered, perhaps, by his chants, who died at Brompton in 1827; and to James Elphinstone, noticed in the last chapter.

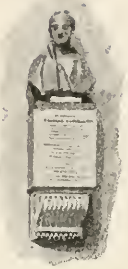
In the north porch is the monument erected by Sir Hans Sloane to commemorate his friend William Courten, who had left him his collection of curiosities. Courten died in 1702, and there is no reason why this monument should not have been carved, as tradition asserts, by Grinling Gibbons.

In the present south aisle of the nave there is a handsome monument in white marble with coloured heraldry. It stood on the west wall of the old church, and commemorated one of a family often mentioned in our parochial annals:—

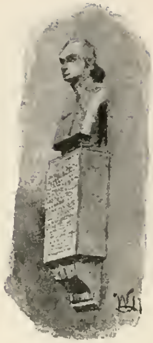
> Here lyeth the body of Mr. Colin Campbell, son to the Earl of Bread Albany and Holland, and to Mary, Countess Dowager of Caithness, daughter of Archibald, Marquis of Argyle. He died the 31st day of March, in the year 1708, and of his age the 29th year.
>
> A youth of great parts and hopes.

Arms.—Quarterly, 1 and 4, Gyronny of eight, or and sable, for Campbell: 2, Or, a fesse checquy, argent and azure, for Stewart: 3, Argent, a ship sailing, with flag and pennants, sable, for Lorn.

There are two monuments by Chantrey in the church. One is the bust of Thomas Rennell, D.D., who was Vicar of Kensington from 1816 till his death, 30th June 1824. I have spoken of him already. He was a grandson of Sir William Blackstone, and was much respected and admired in his parish. The other Chantrey is a monument to Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Hutchins, who died 2d July 1823. He had



BUST OF MR. RENNELL, AND TABLET, IN ST. MARY ABBOT'S CHURCH.



BUST OF ARCHDEACON SINCLAIR, AND TABLET, IN ST. MARY ABBOT'S CHURCH.

served with distinction in the Peninsular War, especially at Salamanca, and was a native of Kensington.

A brass tablet in the south aisle of the chancel has lately been erected to commemorate a former vicar, Thomas Hodges, D.D., who died in 1672. He had attended the Earl of Holland on the scaffold at Westminster in 1649. During the Commonwealth he was a Covenanter, but at the Restoration accepted the Deanery of Hereford. A bust of Archdeacon Sinclair is at the west end.

The following list contains, in alphabetical order, the name and date of every memorial in the church in June 1887. I am indebted for the greater part of it to the *Parish Magazine* of that year :—

Alexander	1831
Armitage	1787
Barrett	1881
Bearcroft	1797
Benett	1845
Benett	1817
Bland	1829
Boscawen	1730
Brazier	1792
Bridgeman	1804
Buggin	1819
Buller	1882
Bullock	1732
Burnett	1836
Burton	1734
Bushby	1811
Butts	1824
Campbell	1708
Carnaby	1678
Cary	1825
Cave	1817
Chase	1798
Chase	1820
Chase, T. C.	1818
Cheyne	1757
Colby	1727
Colman	1733
Coombe	1806
Corbould	1866
Corry	1834
Courten	1702
Cosier	1880
Cross	1829
Cure	1724
Davies	1789
De Nouall	1834
Dickens	1694
Dinsdale	1774
D'Oyley	1709
Ducket	1693

Dyott	1804
Elphinstone	1809
Fanning	1812
Fanning	1818
Fortrose	1751
Fraser	1822
Frohock	1692
Fynmore	1832
Glover	1879
Godfrey	1803
Gostling	1813
Gostling	1819
Gregory	1814
Grinstone	1820
Grove	1809
Hall	1816
Henshaw	1697
Hodges	1672
Hopkins	1822
Hussey	1807
Hutchins	1823
Janvrin	1821
Johnson	1830
King	1836
King	1885
Lutyens	1862
Mackenzie	1766
Mackenzie	1828
Mackennon	1833
Mackinnon	1821
Mair	1823
Mansfield	1827
Mason	1838
M‘Caskill	1845
Medows	1787
Merriman	1881
Mico	1658
Middleton	1785
Mill	1836
Mompesson	1764
Murray	1786
Murray	1801
O'Halloran	1884
O'Halloran	1885
Ormerod	1816
Payne	1813
Pearson	1878
Perrin	1803
Peyton	1821
Phillimore	1829
Phillimore	1779
Phillimore	1818
Port	1842
Pott	1818
Powell	1823
Ramsden	1831
Rennell	1824
Reynel	1775
Reynel	1798
Richman	1882
Ridout	1734
Rigge	1794
Roberts	1882
Robinson	1794
Ross	1791
Searle	1808
Silvester	1840
Sisum	1767
Sketchley	1834
Sontag	1816
Tayler	1813
Telfair	1796
Thomson	1815
Thornhill	1806
Torriano	1825
Warburton	1821
Ward	1814
Warren	1797
Warren	1860
Warwick and Holland	1721
Webb	1806
White	1882
Williams	1819
Wynyard	1834

MEMORIAL WINDOWS.

Abercrombie	1860
Barlow	1871
Bible Classes	
Clarke	1864
Clode	1876
Cobb	1875
Cobb	1840
Confirmation Classes	
Cotton	1855
Cosier	1880
Davidson	1879
Deacon	1869
Good	
Hunter	1793
Little	1873
M'Grigor	1858
Merriman	1839
Methwold	1877
Muggeridge	
Napleton	
Newton	1727
Philp	1857
Potter	
Shaw	1867
Sinclair	1875
Stephens	1869
Thompson	
Thompson	1871
Vallotton	1858
Weston	1878
White	1847
Williams	1870

This list does not include a considerable number of additions lately (1887) made to the stained glass of the church.

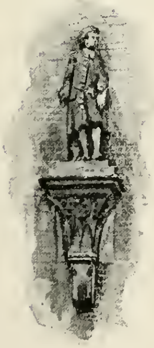
The churchyard is extensive, and contains some interesting tombs and memorials. A large addition westward was made in 1814, when Stephen Pitt cut off the lawn of Campden House, which originally extended to the High Street. The following tombstones and epitaphs, among others, are mentioned by Faulkner:—William Courten, died 1702, the friend of Sir Hans Sloane, now destroyed; James Elphinstone, who kept a school at Kensington House, died 1809; Viscount (1813) and Viscountess Molesworth (1819), on the wall, near the north-eastern gate. A child of Thomas Frognal Dibdin, the bibliographer, who died 1810, and Samuel Pegge, whose father of the same name is more celebrated, who died in 1800, are also commemorated. John Bellamy, the founder, we are told, of "the Society of Whigs of England," died in 1794. James Gunter, of Earl's Court, died in 1819. A son of George Canning, who was living at Oxford Lodge, was buried under a monument designed by Chantrey in 1820: the epitaph is by the great statesman:—

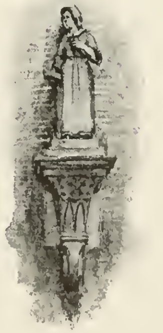
Lines written by Mr. Canning on the day of his son's decease, and inscribed on the tomb designed by Sir Francis Chantrey in the churchyard of Kensington Parish Church :—

"Sacred to the memory of George Charles Canning, eldest son of the Right Honourable George Canning and Joan Scott his wife, in his 19th year, 31st March 1820.

"Tho' short thy span, God's unimpeached decrees
Which made that shortened span, one long disease,
Yet merciful in chastening gave thee scope
For mild redeeming virtues—Faith and Hope,
Meek Resignation, pious Charity.
And since this world was not the world for thee,
Far from thy path removed, with partial care,
Strife, glory, gain, and pleasure's flowery snare ;
Bade Earth's temptations pass thee harmless by
And fix on Heaven thine unaverted eye.
Oh, marked from birth, and nurtured for the skies,
In youth, with more than learning's wisdom wise,
As sainted martyrs patient to endure,
Simple as unweaned infancy, and pure,
Pure from all stain, save that of human clay
Which Christ's atoning blood hath washed away :
By mortal suffering now no more oppressed,
Mount, sinless spirit, to thy destined rest ;
Whilst I (reversed our nature's kindlier doom)
Pour forth a Father's sorrows on thy tomb."

Near this grave is that of Mrs. Inchbald, the actress and author, who died in the following year, 1821. She was not a very estimable person in some of the relations of life, but wrote novels, the *Simple Story* being the best remembered, and was doubly connected with Kensington, for she is said to have caused the quarrel between Lady Sarah and Sir Charles Bunbury, and because she lived

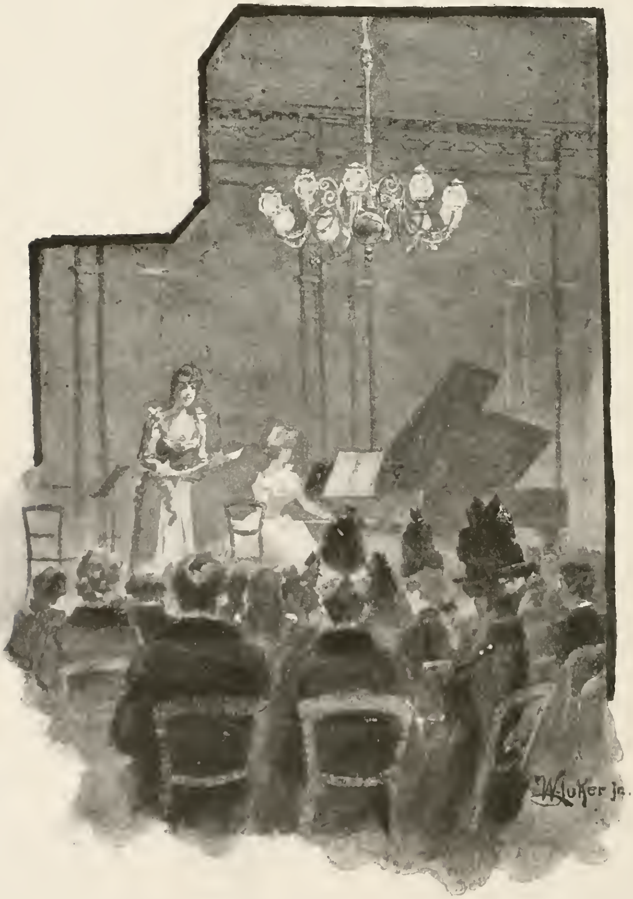

BLUECOAT FIGURE.


BLUECOAT FIGURE.

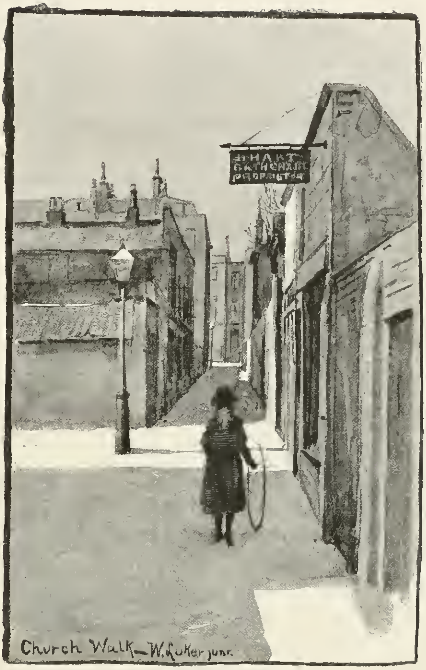
for several years in the old house, next door to Colby House, which I have mentioned above.

The vestry of Kensington acts in some ways like a municipality: what in a city would be civic buildings are here parochial, and are, or have lately been, close to the church. The old schools, represented in an engraving in Faulkner's *History*, no longer exist, but the funny little figures of a school-boy and a school-girl of the real Queen Anne period are set on brackets over the entrance to the new school in the churchyard. The old house was designed by Sir John Vanbrugh, and was of ruddy brick, and really picturesque, although formal. The statues stood on either side of the central division, which projected and rose into a sort of tower. On a scroll which the boy holds he was supposed to be writing, "I was naked and ye clothed me." The girl holds a prayer-book. The building was dated 1713.

The vestry hall is a little to the westward of the site of the school. It is in the kind of Gothic which was in vogue fifty years ago, and was designed by Broadbridge. As it was only built in 1852, it ought to have been better.

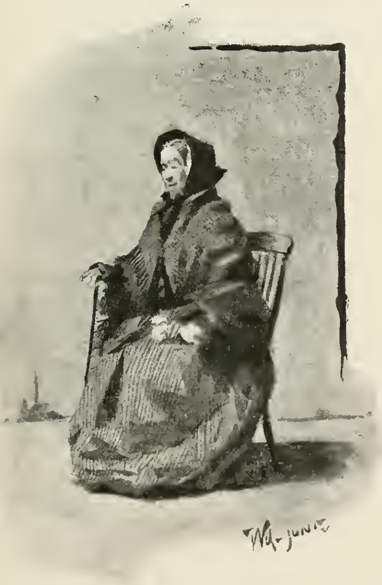


CHARITY CONCERT IN KENSINGTON VESTRY HALL.

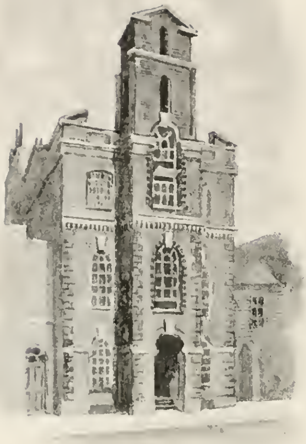


The new town hall is a handsome building, and has superseded Vanbrugh's schools. It has a fine stone front towards the street, in a good Italian style; but, like all modern work in that style, sadly wanting in proportion. On the other hand, it is not so much overloaded with ornament to conceal its defects as most of its contemporaries. It was built in 1878, the architect being Mr. Robert Walker, and the cost, including site (£7300), coming to close on £50,000. As interest on this sum, the letting of the hall, or of the smaller rooms, brings in between two and three thousand a year. In 1885 this item is reported at £2674 : 3s.

The old workhouse was situated in Hogmore or Hogmire Lane. But Hogmire Lane grew fashionable, and changed itself into Gloucester Road. The workhouse was removed in 1849, and Kensington Gate, a small square, was built on the site. The workhouse, and certain parochial almshouses, are now situated in Marloes Road, and are rather handsome, with



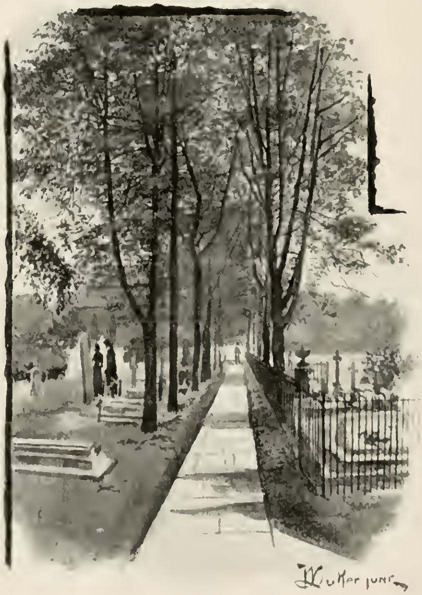
WORKHOUSE WOMAN.



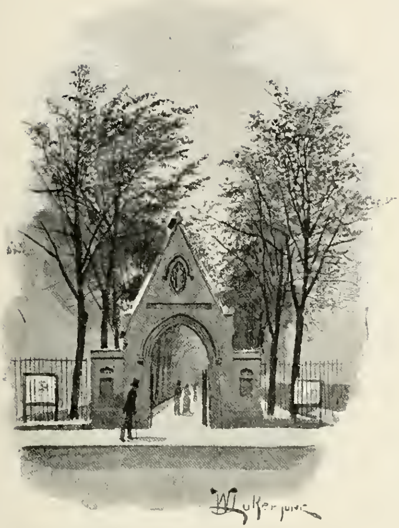
KENSINGTON NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

spacious gardens, and a much more pleasant airy look than these institutions generally wear. They are in a late Tudor style, of no great beauty, and rigidly balanced, but of brightly-coloured brick. The square on the old site pays the charity trustees £235 a year, on a 99 years' lease from 1849.

The old charities of Kensington will, in course of time, become much more valuable. Some of them have already been mentioned: but the picturesque old almshouses have all disappeared. In 1652 William Methwold left the parish a hospital for six old women, "aged fifty, free from vice, and of good report." Three of the six were to be elected by the vestry, the other three by the owner or inhabitant of Hale House. In 1820 the owner of Hale House, or Cromwell House, was Lady Harrington, one of the coheirs of John Fleming, who had bought Methwold's estate. The annual payment has been commuted, and now the Methwold trustees have dividends which amount to about £150 a year, and are paid to the six almswomen at the rate of £21 : 14s. each. The old almshouse stood in Cromwell Lane, now obliterated, near the South Kensington station, and the land was bought by the railway for £3750, which it



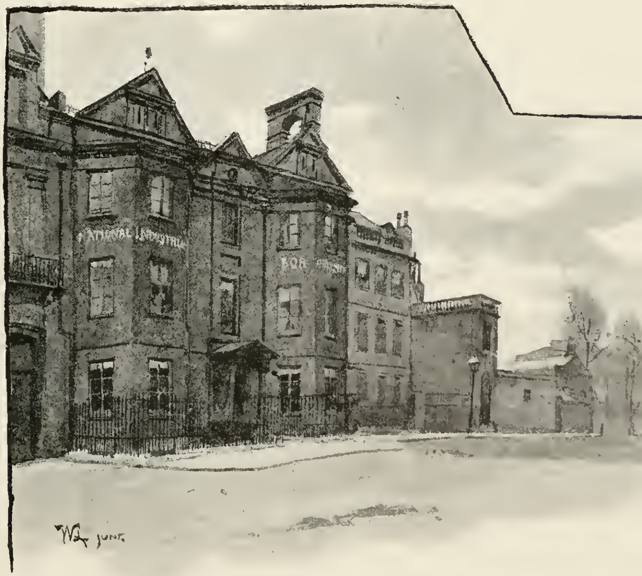
BROMPTON CHURCH CEMETERY.



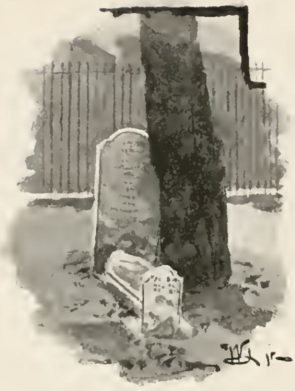
ENTRANCE OF BROMPTON CHURCH AVENUE.

was arranged was also to extinguish the rent charge left by Methwold, and another charge of £1 a year, charged by Thomas Goodfellow, in 1597, on the same estate.

Thomas Young, who must not be confounded with the builder of Young Street, more than a century later, left a small sum for the poor in 1560. This gift brings in only 18s. 6d. Of Jane Berkeley's bequest I have spoken already. It still brings in its £10 a year. Thomas Sams, who died in 1658, left the parish £5 a year. His gift only brings in £4 : 17 : 8. In 1705 Mary Carnaby left the poor of Kensington an interest in the Goat public-house, which, as now handsomely rebuilt, is a conspicuous object on the south side of the High Street, nearly opposite the gateway of the palace avenue. Of the rent of this house Kensington has three-eighths, amounting to £54 : 16 : 11 in 1885. Two other gifts, James Mackintosh's, left in 1794, and Thomas Reeves's



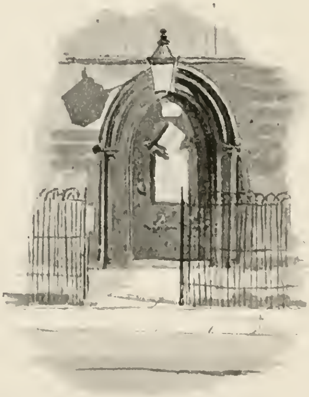
CRIPPLED BOYS' HOME.



TOMBSTONE IN BROMPTON CHURCH CEMETERY.

in 1799, each of £100, bringing in £6:9:6, and there are three bequests conditional on the keeping in order of the benefactors' tombs. These are, Elizabeth Ramsden's £500, given in 1832, Mary Barnard's £100 in 1837, and Haine's £300, bequeathed in 1867. Mrs. Searle in 1840 left the parish £300, the interest to be given by the vicar and churchwardens to poor old women at £1 each; and Mr. Shore, in 1851, the dividends on £120:9:8 to be spent in bread and coals.

But the Campden Charities are of far greater magnitude, and bring in about £5000 a year. They consist of various items all now under the same management. The largest single estate, in value at least, is that called Cromwell's Gift, of which I have some notes in another chapter. Clanricarde Gardens and six shops in High Street, Notting Hill Gate, bring in £1042 a year, being let for 99 years from Christmas 1868. The Campden Trustees have also the income of Butt's Field described on another page, and that of Charecrofts which is at Shepherd's Bush in Hammersmith, and for a long time brought in very little. This last-named estate, which consists of 14 acres or thereabouts, was bought in October 1635 with £200 which the first Lord Campden had left in trust to the churchwardens of the parish. At the beginning of the present century the rent of Charecrofts was £103, the lessee being John Middlemist, who still held it in 1832. It was let by public auction for 99 years in 1864 to Mr. John Frederick George Tippett,

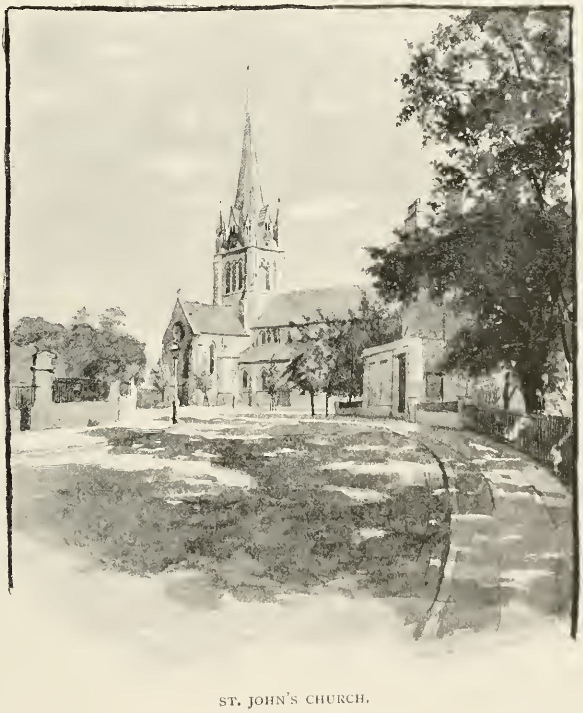


NORTH DOORWAY OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

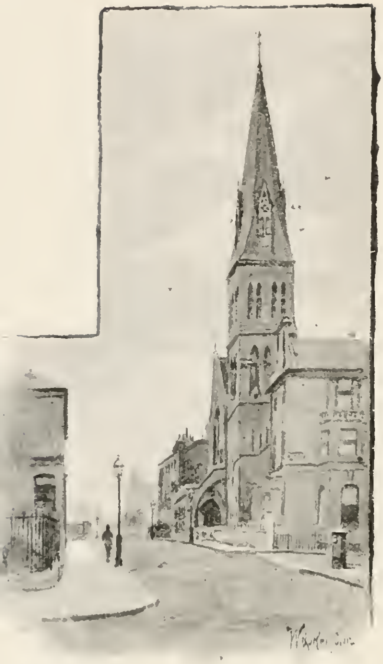
on a building lease at £480 a year; but the London and South-Western Railway Company bought a portion for £10,000 which has been invested by the trustees. Lady Campden's bequest was made in 1645. Like her husband she left £200, and her trustees bought with it Butt's Field, of which I speak elsewhere. So that the freehold of more than eighteen acres in the immediate neighbourhood of London could be acquired in the first half of the seventeenth century for £400.

The Campden trustees bought out of the accumulations of many years the site of Thanet House in Aldersgate Street, and have let it on a lease for 80 years at £800 a year. This purchase was made on 9th April 1884 for £22,000. The income of the charity is entirely employed in the parish pensions to old, infirm, and blind parishioners, with gifts to hospitals; and there are scholarships and apprenticing fees for promising young people, among the chief objects of expenditure. The accumulations are caused by small annual balances which cannot be carried forward to the next year's account, and so remain unspent.

Of the other churches in this vast parish I must speak but briefly. The oldest is Holy Trinity, Brompton, which was consecrated 6th June 1829. The design was by Hakewill, (Cunningham says "Mr. Donaldson,") and it is in the kind of Gothic which



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

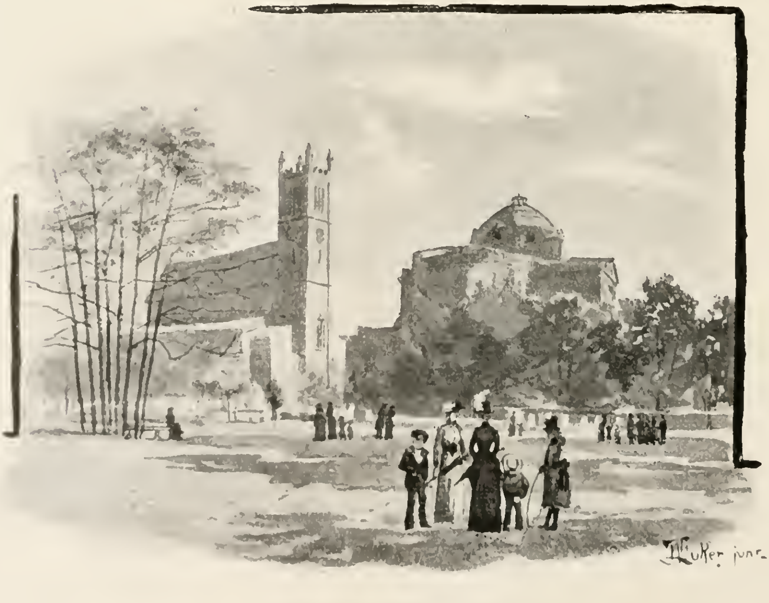


ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, CAMPDEN HILL.

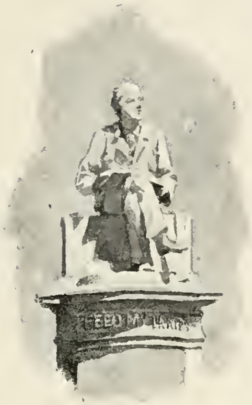
might be expected from the date. The situation is good, as a handsome avenue of trees leads up from the Brompton Road, and to the northward there was till lately open country to Kensington Gore. The churchyard is still very extensive and well planted. The interior of the church is a surprise after the dulness of the exterior, as it has been very successfully "Gothicised."

Next, in point of age, is St. Barnabas, Addison Road, in a perpendicular style built in 1830. It was long called a chapel, but has now its ecclesiastical district.

St. John's, Notting Hill, is one of the best situated and best designed churches in the parish, and is a very conspicuous object, standing as it does on a high knoll, where Notting Hill farmhouse stood



BROMPTON CHURCH AND ORATORY.



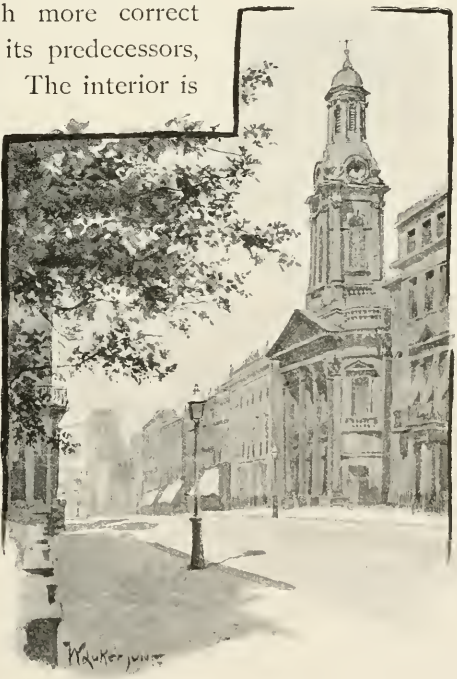
STATUE IN THE MALL.

formerly, and afterwards the hippodrome. Unfortunately for this fine cruciform stone building with its central spire, it was designed before Gothic details were fully understood, yet, considering that it was consecrated in 1845, we can only say it might have been much worse. The architects were Stevens and Alexander. This was the first of many churches built during the incumbency of Archdeacon Sinclair.

In the same year (1845) was consecrated his second church, St. James, Norland, at the end of Addison Road North, which is much the same in style as the foregoing, and evidently designed, unlike the mother church, for the place it occupies.

Christchurch, Victoria Road, consecrated in 1851, was Archdeacon Sinclair's third church, and was designed, in a much more correct Gothic style than that of its predecessors, by Mr. Benjamin Ferrey. The interior is very handsome, with good stained glass. Mr. Merriman, to whom I am indebted over and over again all through this book, but especially in this chapter, gave the communion plate.

A mere enumeration of the other churches and chapels must suffice. St. Paul's will be a new church, near the vicarage, and is rising above its foundations with

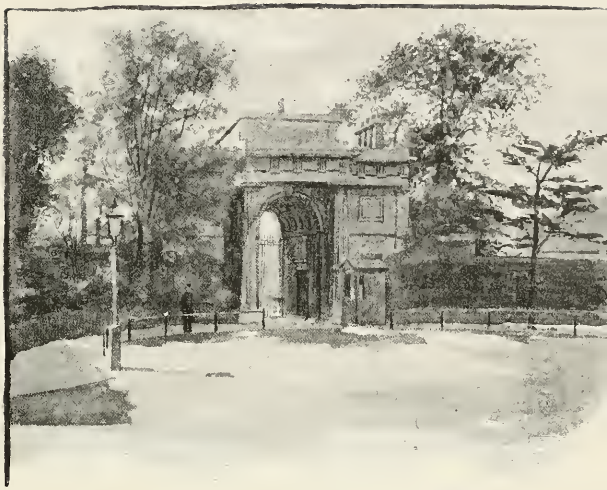


ST. PETER'S CHURCH.

great rapidity. Of churches already built the following list appears in the *Vestry Report* for 1886, omitting those already noticed:—

All Saints, Clydesdale Road.
Brompton Chapel, Montpelier Street.
Christ Church, Telford Road.
St. Andrew and St. Philip, Golborne Road.
St. Augustine, Green's Gate.
St. Barnabas, chapel, Warwick Gardens.
St. Clement, Treadgold Street.
St. Clement, mission hall.
St. Cuthbert, Philbeach Gardens.
St. George, Notting Hill Grove.
St. George, mission church.
St. Helen, St. Quintin Avenue.
St. James, St. James's Square.
St. James, mission room.
St. John Baptist, Holland Road.
St. John, Ladbroke Grove.
St. Jude, Collingham Road.
St. Luke, Redcliffe Square.
St. Mark, St. Mark's Road.
St. Mark, mission room.
St. Mary Abbot's, mission room.
St. Mary, The Boltons.
St. Matthias, Warwick Road.
St. Michael and All Angels, Ladbroke Grove Road.
St. Paul, Onslow Square.
St. Peter, Crawley Gardens.
St. Peter, Kensington Park Road.
St. Philip, Earl's Court Road.
St. Stephen, Gloucester Road.

The Romanist churches are among the finest in Kensington. The so-called Pro-Cathedral is a little off the High Street, just east of Earl's Court Road, from which a very good view of the high chancel and apse can be obtained. Here, it will be seen at a glance, the architect has avoided the mistake which so spoils the effect of our parish church, and lets his building rise clear of any meaner surroundings. The interior is very disappointing, the fine effect of the exterior being lost, for



ENTRANCE TO KENSAL GREEN CEMETERY.

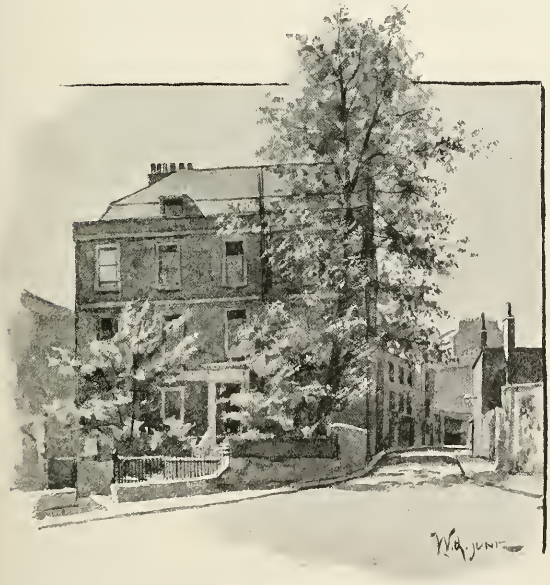
want of length perhaps, but also because of the exceeding "stumpiness" of the columns. The design was by Mr. Goldie, and the church was opened in 1869.

The Oratory at Brompton overshadows Brompton Church, and is of vast dimensions, the portico still remaining unbuilt. The style is Palladian, but very plain. The interior is imposingly arranged, and gorgeous with marbles and gilding.

The Carmelite Church is in Church Street; it has a very ugly exterior in brown brick and stone, by Mr. Pugin: but the interior, to which everything is sacrificed, has a finer effect.

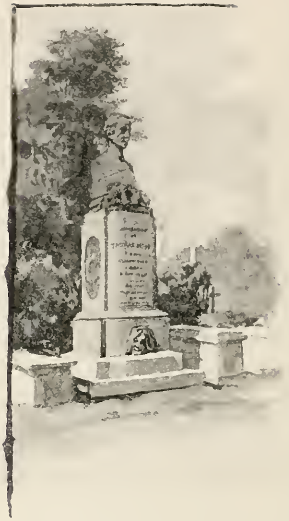
The church of St. Francis of Assisi in the Potteries is cramped by its situation, but is in a very good style, by Mr. Clutton. There are several other chapels of this denomination.

The number of Dissenters' Meeting



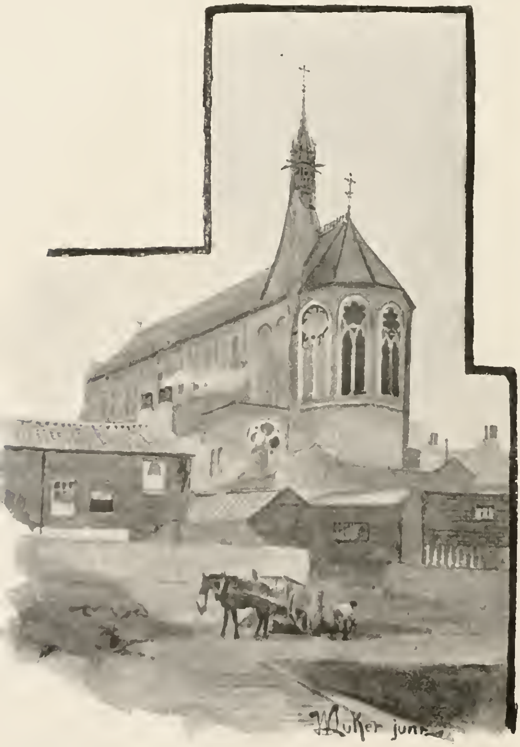
THE CARMELITES.

Houses is very great: but not one of some thirty presents architectural features worth describing. One, a Congregational chapel, in Kensington Park Road and Horbury Road, is of stone, Norman in style. Another was recently built as a Unitarian Church in the Mall, close to the old site of Sir Augustus Callcott's house. It is by Messrs. Chatfield Clarke and Son, in red brick with stone windows, so staringly ugly with its squat spire, that one can only turn back and wonder if English architecture has made no progress since St. John's, Notting Hill, was built in 1845.

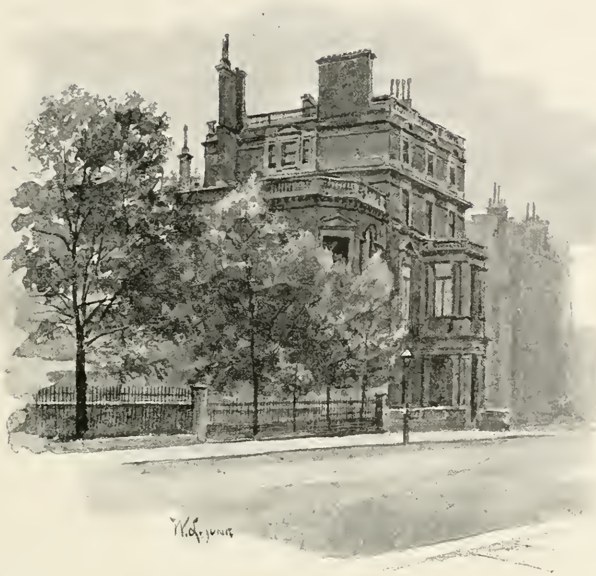

TOM HOOD'S TOMB, KENSAL GREEN.

The two great cemeteries, at West Brompton and Kensal Green, have been opened in the lifetime of many still living, yet they already present an aspect of crowding, and the town is so fast creeping up to and past them, that we must look forward at no very distant period to seeing both closed.

The cemetery at Kensal Green is the elder of the two, having been opened in 1832 by a company. It comprises about 56 acres. The number of eminent folk whose bodies are buried here is enormous, though not very many

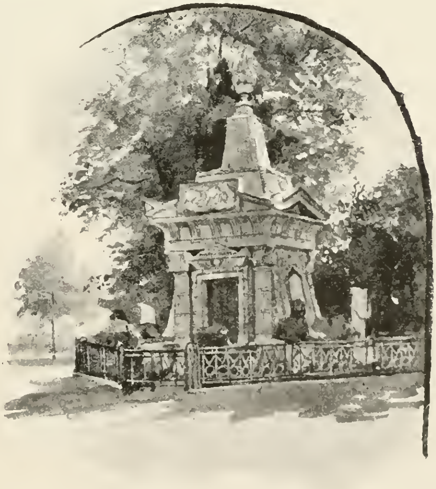


THE PRO-CATHEDRAL.



SIR J. E. MILLAIS'S HOUSE, PALACE GATE.

concern us. The Duke of Sussex, who died in 1843 at Kensington Palace, left particular directions that he was to be buried in Kensal Green Cemetery, as he was greatly disgusted with the ceremonies on the occasion of the funeral of William IV. In the same vault lie his sister, the Princess Sophia, who died at York House in Church Street in 1848, and his widow, the Duchess of Inverness, who died in 1873. The grave is marked by an enormous granite slab.

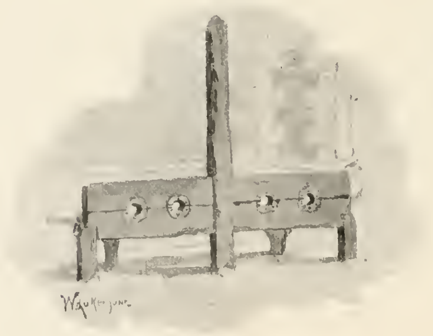


ANDREW DUCROW'S TOMB.

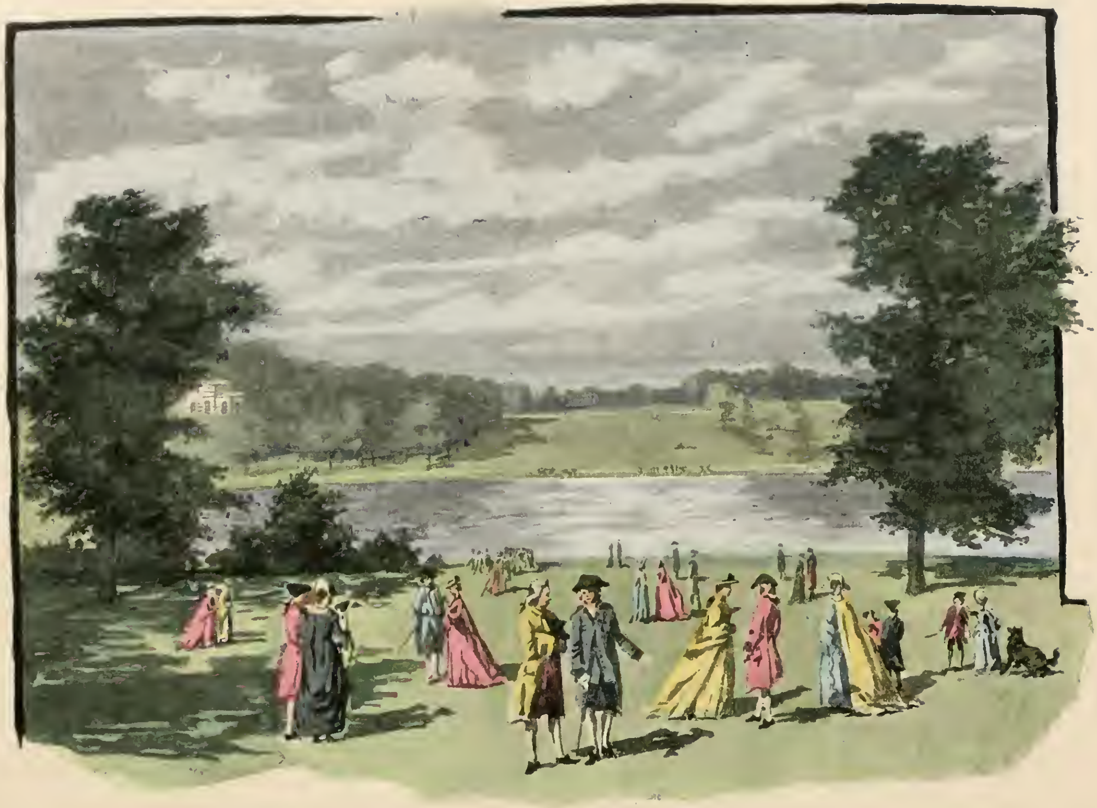
Of the greater number it cannot be said that they ever inhabited Kensington: but Sir Augustus Callcott (d. 1844), Alfred Wigan (d. 1878) and his widow (d. 1882), William

Makepeace Thackeray (d. 1863), Shirley Brooks (d. 1874), John Leech (d. 1864), and Leigh Hunt (d. 1873), were all entitled to the adjective "Kensingtonian."

The West Brompton Cemetery, or the "Westminster and West of London Cemetery," is at the south-western corner of the parish near Stamford Bridge. It covers about 40 acres and was consecrated in 1840. The grounds are beautifully laid out and planted: but here, as at Kensal Green, the vulgarity of a majority of the monuments is very painful.



STOCKS, OLD LONDON



THE SERPENTINE, 1744.

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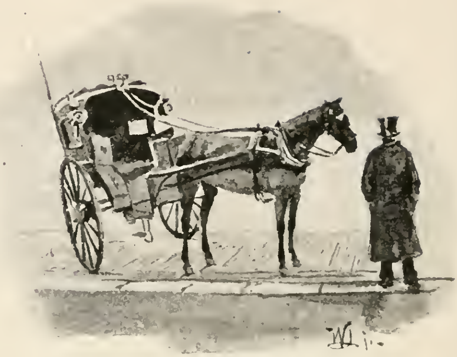
CHAPTER VII

MODERN KENSINGTON

A perambulation of the parish—Forty years ago—Crofton Croker's *Walk*—Knightsbridge—Brompton Row—Beloe—Michael Novosielski—Brompton Square—Alexander Square—Flounder Field—Alderman Henry Smith—Fulham Road—Onslow Square—Marochetti—Queen's Elm—Thistle Grove—Little Chelsea—Earls and Bishops—Lillie Bridge—South Kensington—Queen Anne architecture—South Kensington Museum—The Gore and Hale Estates—Mr. Moncure Conway on the Albert Hall and Cross—The statues—Sir Henry Cole—Gloucester Road—Canning—Palace Gate—Butt's Field—Hyde Park Gate, or Campden Terrace—Noel House—De Vere Gardens—Earl's Court—John Hunter—Princess Charlotte—Addison Road—Holland Park Road—Melbury Road—Artists' houses—Kensington Road—Campden Hill—Nightingale Lane—"The Dukeries"—The Phillimore Estate—Sir James South—Church Street—The Callcotts—Hornton Street—The Abbey—Notting Hill—The Turnpike—Norland—Kensington Park—Notting Barns—Gallows Close—The Potteries—Recollections of an Old Inhabitant—The Hippodrome—A Walk in North Kensington—The Gravel Pits—Portobello Farm—A Rookery—Another Rookery—Cromwell's Gift—High Street, Notting Hill Gate—Notting Hill Square—Tower Cressy—New Lodge—Conclusion.

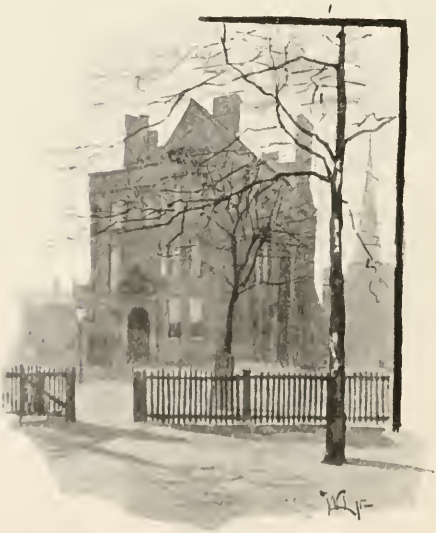
IN KENSINGTON GARDENS.

DURING the past few years the changes in Kensington have been so great that I doubt if any person who knew his way in it forty years ago would know his way now, if he had not visited it in the meanwhile. I have before me as I write a curious volume published in 1847, just forty years ago, which enables us to form an idea of the magnitude of these changes in the western portion of the original Kensington. It is a



DISENGAGED.

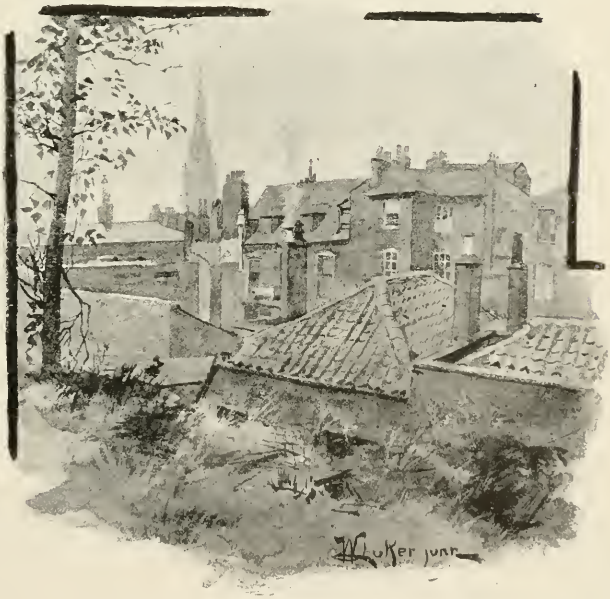
series of diagrams of the streets and roads, with the numbers of the houses, and was printed, no doubt, for the use of the clergy and the parochial officers. I did not myself set foot in Kensington till ten years later, namely, till 1857. But, just to mention the first four items in my observations then: I saw Kensington House and Colby House on my left as I entered the High Street; straight before me was the old Church and on my right the new houses were still being built in Palace Gardens. Those in Palace Green, Mr. Howard's and Thackeray's, had not yet even been founded. So that many changes have taken place since 1857, and, indeed, it might be possible to name a much later date, perhaps not more than seven years ago, since which the alterations have been going on with the greatest rapidity. For Brompton we have the narrative and the cuts in Crofton Croker's delightful *Walk from London to Fulham,* which describes streets and rows of houses that were standing, many of them unaltered till last year, although what we call South Kensington was not, and Cromwell Road and the adjacent territories were market gardens and orchards. Mr. Croker's *Walk* was contributed to *Fraser* about forty years ago, and was republished, with undated additions, in 1860, so that, except when the exact year of



MR. GEORGE HOWARD'S HOUSE, PALACE GREEN.

an event is mentioned, we must be careful of relying on its chronological evidence. Mr. Croker, who died "at his residence, Gloucester Road, Old Brompton," in 1854, was long an inhabitant of our parish.

Coming from Hyde Park Corner, the first part of Kensington the traveller will reach is at Sloane Street. Here if he goes a few doors down from Knightsbridge, he will see the parish boundary marked both on the face of a house on the right, or western side, and on the pavement. It is difficult to identify the houses about here with descriptions of them forty years ago. Croker mentions at the very outset of his *Walk* six alterations in the name of a single row in half a century. Since his day, and indeed during the past couple of years, an immense number of the small, uniform, brown brick houses he writes about have been pulled down, and tall red buildings with shops below have taken their place, obliterating all the historical and biographical associations which he had so carefully drawn over Brompton Grove, Yeoman's Row, and Michael's Place, all of which were within our parish. The eminent inhabitants he enumerates are now for the most part forgotten, and others lived beyond our boundaries: but we should remember Count Rumford, the American reformer of open fire grates, who lived at 45 Brompton Row. After his time the same house was inhabited by Beloe, a bibliographer, whose posthumous work *The Sexa-*

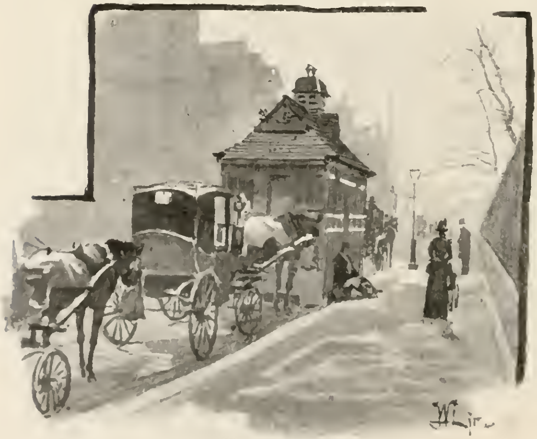


BACKS OF OLD HOUSES, HIGH STREET, KENSINGTON.

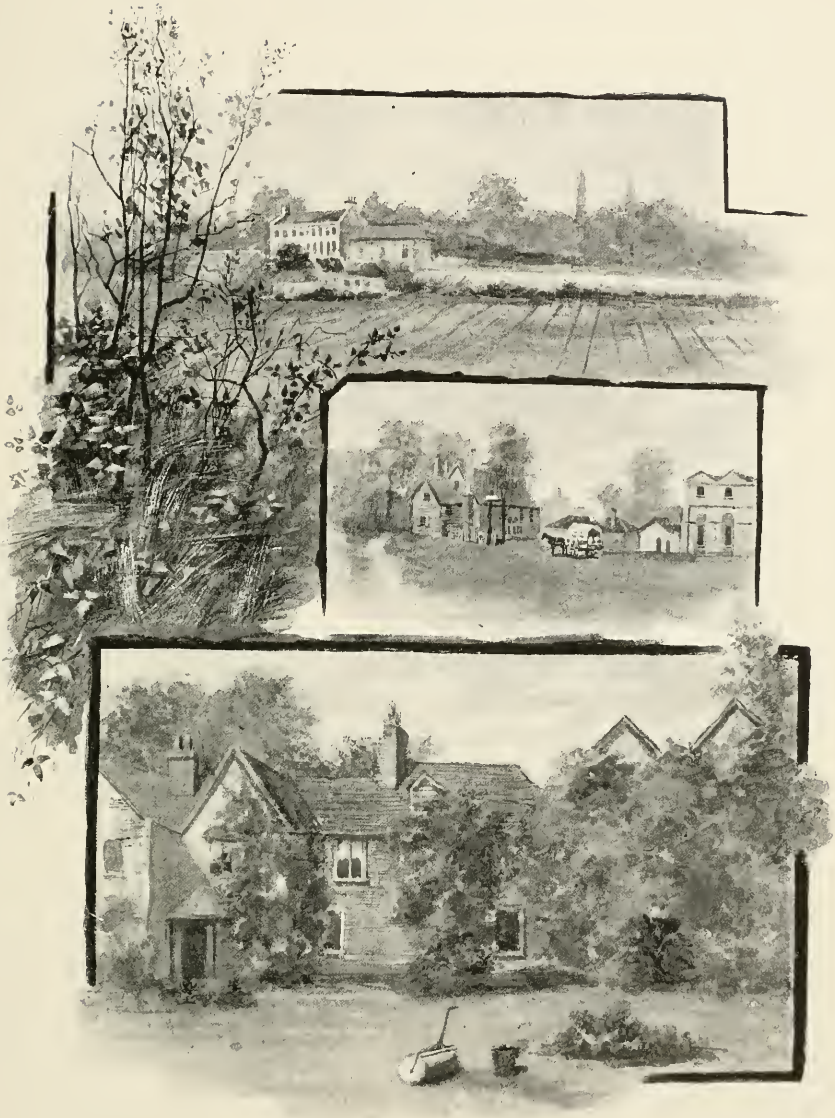
genarian; or, the Recollections of a Literary Life, published in 1817, excited much discussion: for Mr. Beloe, after living a long life at peace with all mankind, and publishing some forty now half-forgotten volumes, contrived after his own death to offend many people who had looked on him as a friend, including Mr. Rennell, the respected vicar of Kensington. A similar example, in which the bequeather of strife was an eminent architect, touched us at Kensington within the last few years even more nearly. I think Rumford's house is still standing: but owing to a senseless custom which has prevailed extensively in late years of renumbering streets with the even numbers on one side and the odd on the other, there is no 45 now in what was Brompton Row. On the opposite side, Yeoman's Row was built in 1767, according to a stone which was on the face of the corner house. At Grove House on the same side William Wilberforce was living in 1823. He was succeeded by Jerdan, well known as the editor of the *Literary Gazette*. Ovington Square, and the short street leading to it, now stand on the site.

Michael's Place was called after its architect Michael Novosielski, who began to build it in 1786, but did not at first succeed in finding tenants for houses so far out of town. At No. 8 lived Croly, long the rector of St. Stephen, Wallbrook, in the city, and a minor poet not yet forgotten. He died in 1861. The whole row was pulled down in 1886, and is now partially rebuilt close to the roadway.

Brompton Square does not look inviting, and has, so far as I can gather, entertained no inhabitants of any great distinction, ex-



CABMEN'S SHELTER.



BROMPTON ROAD, 1833, FROM AN OLD PRINT.
"THE HOOP AND TOY," BROMPTON ROAD, 1833, FROM AN OLD PRINT.
LITTLE HOLLAND HOUSE, 1833, FROM AN OLD PRINT.

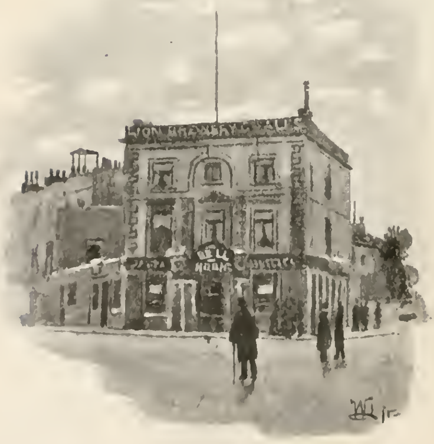
cept perhaps Shirley Brooks, the editor of *Punch* for a few years. He lived at 22, a house previously tenanted by George

Colman, the comedian, who died here in 1836. Brooks died in 1874.

We now reach Brompton Church, and its cemetery, already mentioned, and next to them, thrust most awkwardly, and indeed, architecturally speaking, impudently, almost against the corner of the church, the chapel of the Oratory. At this point the road divides. If we go straight on, past the Oratory, we come to the garden of the South Kensington Museum, and still farther on to the new British Museum of natural history. The wide and handsome street, which extends from here in a straight line almost to the further extremity of the parish at Earl's Court, is named Cromwell Road. New as it is, there is much to tell about it and the museums and other public buildings which border it on the right. But before we enter upon that part of our journey, let us take the road to the left so as to follow Croker to the boundary of Kensington in a south-westerly direction.

Passing the "Bell and Horns," then, we turn into Brompton Crescent and Alexander Square.

Here too, although Alexander Square on the western side is as yet little changed, the houses of the crescent and a fine old house beyond them on the left, within a garden wall, are all being replaced with tall new buildings which must stand there a long time before they can excite any feeling of interest in our minds. Of the site itself Croker tells us that here Novosielski constructed a house for his own residence, the Grange, as he called it. It was pulled down in 1843. After the architect, it is said that the Grange was inhabited by a gentleman of such delicate nerves that he could not

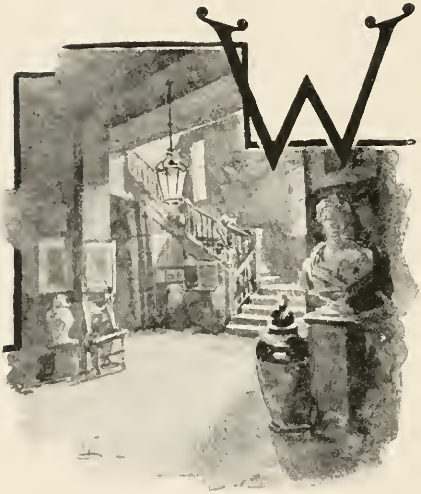


THE "BELL AND HORNS," BROMPTON ROAD.

bear the sound of a bell. The building of Brompton Church in 1826 and of the new Chelsea Church to the west must have illustrated "the folly of human anticipations," for whichever way the wind blew he must have heard "the church-going bell." Braham, the great tenor singer and composer, lived for a time at the Grange. Planché, known for his plays, and as an eminent heraldic antiquarian, lived in the crescent, as did, very lately, Mr. T. H. S. Escott, while he edited the *Fortnightly Review*.

In Michael's Place there were a good many inhabitants of moderate distinction in their day, but hardly any worth enumerating, the more so as their houses have disappeared. The whole estate which formed the easternmost corner of our parish is sometimes described as "Flounder Field." It was probably, in spite of its gravelly soil, in a marshy and muddy condition, and was bordered, in part at least, on the south by the stream of the Westbourne which marked the boundary between Kensington and Chelsea. Croker gives an account of the earliest owner on record of the fourteen acres of which Flounder Field consisted; but we may observe, before quoting it, that this and all Brompton were originally in the manor of Earl's Court. Croker tells us that Henry Smith, an alderman, who rose from circumstances so humble that as a boy he had been whipped out of Mitcham for begging, possessed some eighty acres in all in this neighbourhood, including this field; and made over his whole estate in 1620 for charitable purposes, reserving only to himself an annuity of £500. The chief objects of his bounty were the captive Christians in the hands of North African pirates. It is said that he had himself been taken by a corsair in his early life. He died in 1628, and an Act of Parliament was obtained about a century later, when no application of the funds to Smith's original purpose had been made for many years, to enable the trustees to employ the estates so as to benefit the parishes of Kensington, Chelsea, and St. Margaret's, Westminster. It may be noted here that one of Smith's fields stood within the boundary of St. Margaret's, and that a considerable part of the Horticultural Gardens behind the Albert Hall was placed upon it.

In Alexander Square long resided, at No. 24, Mr. George Godwin, the editor of the *Builder*, an architect of eminence. He designed a considerable number of Kensington churches, such as St. Mary, West Brompton, St. Jude, South Kensington, and St. Luke's. He was born, if I mistake not, where he so long lived, but removed to Cromwell Place, not far off, where he died since the foregoing lines were in print.



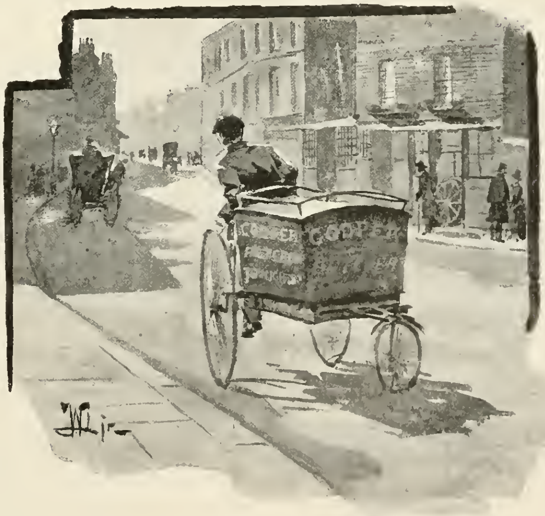
HALL IN MR. GEORGE H. BOUGHTON'S HOUSE, CAMPDEN HILL.

WE now reach the Fulham Road, and along the greater part of it, until we come to the site of Stamford Bridge, we have Kensington on our right and Chelsea on our left. For centuries the only houses on this road, once Brompton was passed, were in the village called Little Chelsea, but at the present day it is one long street. The celebrated John Philpot Curran died in 1817 at 7 Amelia Place, the first row of houses, but Pelham Crescent and all the ground behind it to the northward were then open fields, gardens, and orchards. Curran's last repartee must have been uttered here: "The doctor remarked that his patient's cough was not improved. 'That is odd,' remarked Curran, 'for I have been practising all night.'"

Guizot, the minister of Louis Philippe, a statesman who to a strict religious profession added high doctrines on the subject of moral conduct, and illustrated both by a singularly disgraceful and dishonest series of political measures,—measures which not only caused but justified the king's expulsion,—lived for some time at 21 Pelham Place, where his aged mother died in

1848. Onslow and Thurloe Squares are now separated by the underground railway, but were originally built on contiguous fields. Onslow is the name of the owner of a good estate here, and several of the local streets and rows recall the titles of Earl Onslow, Viscount Cranley, and Lord of Clandon and Imbercourt. The square was built on the site of a lunatic asylum with extensive grounds, of which only a kind of sunken walk or avenue remains.

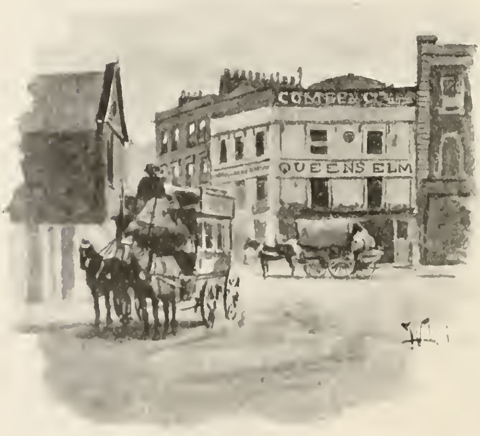
Thackeray wrote *The Virginians* and *The Four Georges* at what was then 36 Onslow Square, now stupidly re-numbered. Mrs. Ritchie, in a note to Mr. Laurence Hutton, the author of *Literary Landmarks*, mentions the avenue. "I used to look up from the avenue and see my father's head bending over his work in the study window, which was over the drawing-room." Here in No. 17 long resided Sir Henry Cole, who as "Mr. Cole, C.B.," and previously as "Felix Summerly," kept himself for many years so well before the public eye. We shall have more to say about him when we arrive at the South Kensington Museum. In the same square lived Baron Marochetti, a very poor sculptor, who came over owing to stress of politics in Italy, and obtaining, as a foreigner so often does in England, patronage out of all proportion to his artistic powers, contrived to earn a living here till 1867. He had "intuitions," or "sparks of genius," or whatever you please to call them, at times, but his most prominent statues, such as the great equestrian group of Richard I. at Westminster, or the seated figure of a Parsee merchant at the



TRADESMAN'S TRICYCLE.

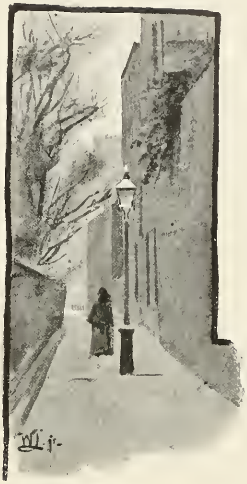
South Kensington Museum, do not show the slightest signs of them. Yet a monument in St. Paul's to the late Lord Melbourne is one of the most impressive pieces of sculpture in England. He failed, shortly before his death, to satisfy opinion by a statue for the Albert Memorial; why he should have been employed no one knows.

At a milestone which marks "1½ mile from London," that is, I suppose, from Hyde Park Corner, we reach the Queen's Elm. Mr. Croker gives the full legend of this royal tree:—"Queen Elizabeth when walking out attended by Lord Burleigh, being overtaken by a heavy shower of rain, found shelter here under an elm tree. After the rain was over the Queen said, 'Let this henceforth be called the Queen's Tree.' The tradition is strongly supported by the parish records of Chelsea, as mention is made in 1586 (the 28th of Elizabeth, and probably the year of the occurrence) of a tree situated about this spot, 'at the end of the Duke's Walk,' as 'The Queen's Tree,' around which an arbour was built, or, in other words, nine young elm-trees were planted by one Bostocke, at the charge of the parish." As "Queen's Elm" the place is first mentioned a hundred years later, or two hundred years ago, but this belongs strictly to Chelsea, and only the northern side of the road, Selwood Place, called after a nursery gardener of that name, is in Kensington. At this side of the way things are completely changed since Croker's time. Cranley Gardens now come down to the parish boundary, and connect this once remote part of the Fulham Road with the fashionable squares of the so-called "South" Kensington district, to which we shall return presently.



THE "QUEEN'S ELM," FULHAM ROAD.

Thistle Grove, even a



THISTLE GROVE LANE, SOUTH KENSINGTON.

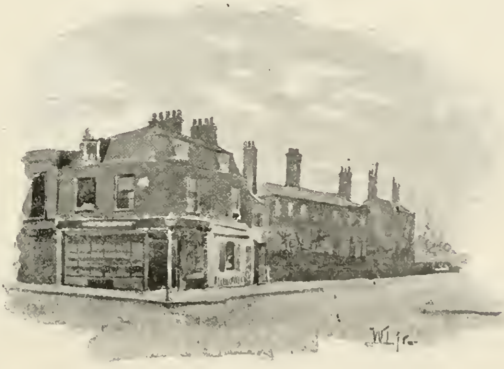
couple of years ago, was a quiet little lane, with old park-palings, old ivy-clad brick walls, over which clematis and wistaria hung luxuriantly with Virginian creeper and dark shady trees. As I write it is being gradually but rapidly transformed, and though it still retains here and there its old character, it is no longer "a garden pathway to the Old Brompton Road."

We now come to what on the oldest maps has always been reckoned a part of Kensington. "Little Chelsea" seems to have been one of the earliest of the outlying hamlets of our parish; no doubt its proximity on the west to the bridge over the Creek, and on the south to Chelsea itself, made it convenient as a residence, and, for a place so remote from London, fairly safe. Little Chelsea is hardly to be recognised now. Even so lately as ten years ago there were plenty of open spaces, orchards, and market-gardens close about it; twenty years ago it was merely a row of houses masking, to use a military phrase, the large villa residences and extensive grazing-fields of the district south of Earl's Court. Fifteen years ago Earl's Court Road, when it reached Richmond Road and the Old Brompton Road, was lost or divided into a number of field-paths, such as Honey Lane and Walnut Tree Walk. Now all these have disappeared. From the Hospital for Diseases of the Chest onwards to the farthest extremity of "West Brompton," there is now, on the right hand, or north side, that is, within the boundary of Kensington, no open space left, if we except the cemetery, already mentioned. Walnut Tree Walk has become Redcliffe Gardens and Honey Lane has been resolved into Adrian Terrace, Ifield Road, and I know not what besides. A few villas, such as Coleherne Court and Hereford House, near the Boltons, survive, but they are far back from the frontage of the Brompton Road.

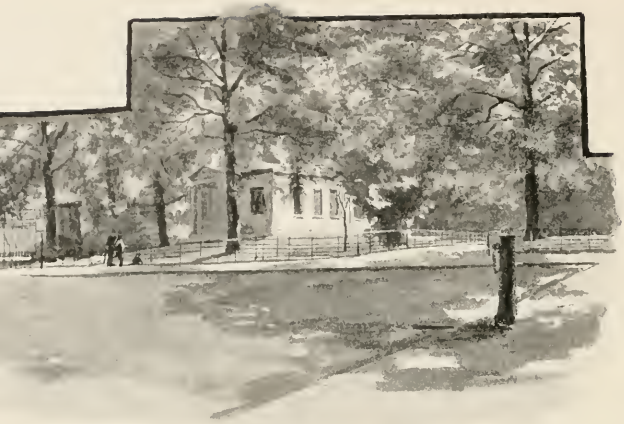
The number of eminent inhabitants of Little Chelsea enumerated by Croker, Faulkner, and others is considerable. Unfortunately, we are very seldom told on which side these remarkable people lived, and cannot be sure whether they belong to Kensington, or to Chelsea, or to Fulham. Shaftesbury House, however, round which a majority of the local anecdotes are tangled, is, or rather was unquestionably, at the time of its greatest celebrity, in Chelsea. Since it was taken for St. George's Workhouse it has been described as part and parcel of St. George's, Hanover Square, a parish which similarly breaks into Paddington on the northern side of Hyde Park. With Shaftesbury House, then, we have nothing to do. But we read of Charles, fourth Earl of Orrery, that he was born at Dr. Whittaker's house at Little Chelsea, 21st July 1674. Where was Dr. Whittaker's house, and why should Lord Orrery's birth in it be worth noting? I cannot tell where Dr. Whittaker's house was, except that it was on the Kensington side of the road, as Charles Boyle's birth is in St. Mary's parish register; but the third earl died at Earl's Court in 1703, and his brother, this native of Little Chelsea, succeeded him, and is the Orrery after whom Graham, his watchmaker, named "an ingenious piece of mechanism, which exhibits the movements of the heavenly bodies." Two bishops who lived at Little Chelsea are mentioned, namely, Edward Fowler, Bishop of Gloucester, who died in 1714, and Sir William Dawes, Bishop of Chester, who became Archbishop of York in that year. There was also a second earl, Lord Clarendon, who died in 1723 at his house in Little Chelsea. I have already mentioned Addison's residence somewhere in this neighbourhood. The supposed site of Lord Burleigh's house was marked until some forty years ago by a villa which bore his name, but though the parish register mentions the birth in 1674 of John Cecil, afterwards fourth Earl of Exeter, the "son and heir-apparent of the Right Honourable John, Lord Burleigh, and the Lady Anne, his wife," it goes on to say that it took place at Mr. Sheffield's. This would be more probably on Campden Hill than at Little Chelsea.

We now arrive at Brompton Cemetery. Passing round it, and keeping within our own parish boundaries, we come to the extremity of the old Brompton Road, which we left at the "Bell and Horns." Here it is generally known as Richmond Road, and a little farther west, beyond the parish boundary, formerly marked by the Creek (see chapter i.), as Lillie Bridge and Lillie Road: so called from a certain Sir John Scott Lillie, who owned the land adjoining when this thoroughfare was opened. We now lose the pleasant guidance of Croker, and turning eastward find ourselves almost immediately in the fine new suburb of South Kensington, which has sprung up since the Great Exhibition of 1851; before which date it consisted of dairy-farms, market-gardens and orchards fenced with park palings. The first houses were built along the Cromwell Road, and another row crept down at right angles from High Street, Kensington, till Earl's Court Road and Cromwell Road met not far from the site of the old courthouse, where is now the Railway Station. We have therefore still to perambulate a three-cornered territory bounded on the west by Earl's Court Road, on the south by Richmond Road and Brompton Road, and on the north by Cromwell Road: the corners being at Lillie Bridge, at Warwick Road, and at the "Bell and Horns."

The district exhibits, better perhaps than any other in London, the comparative merits and peculiarities of modern domestic architecture. In Cromwell Road we have nothing but plain solid houses, of a pale mud colour, comfortable and well built for the most part, but essentially commonplace. This is especially the case with those houses which front the new Natural History Museum, to which we



DRAYTON GARDENS, SOUTH KENSINGTON.

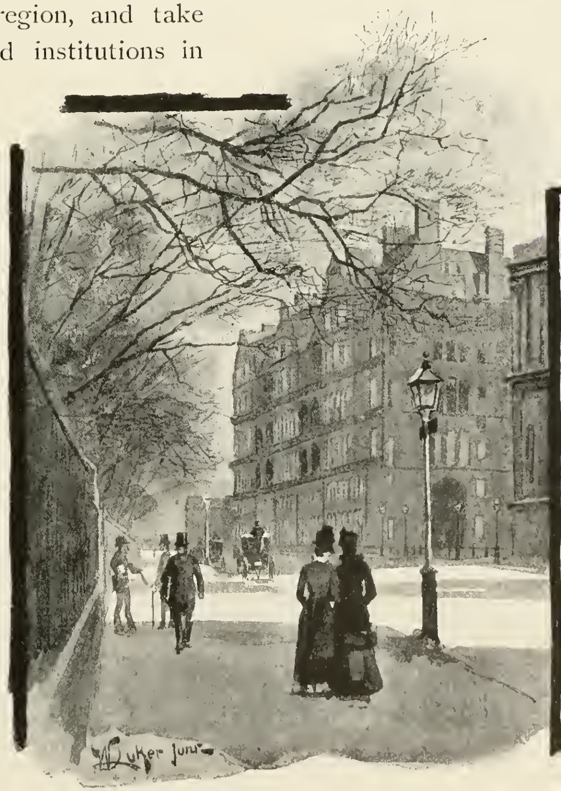


QUEEN'S GATE LODGE.

shall come presently. But behind and beyond Cromwell Road, a little to the south and west, we come upon a wholly different region. It is not as an inhabited country yet ten years old: but "here," as a flippant traveller has been heard to remark, "Queen Anne has gone mad." Street after street, and square after square, are built in red brick and terra-cotta after designs by various eminent architects of the school founded by Mr. Norman Shaw, but far outstripping his views, and plunging into the wildest extravagances of what may be called eclectic art. Nothing comes amiss to the architect in this style. Gothic and classic are all alike to him. He takes features from any ancient or modern building which he thinks may look picturesque. The result is not quite satisfactory, although some of the houses—or rather palaces—in Harrington Gardens and Collingham Road are very handsome, very commodious, and probably very costly. The architects too often seem to me to err, first, by bringing in foreign models, and, secondly, by forgetting that they are building not country but town houses. I object to the foreign air of some of these houses, because I think our English models are better; and I object to the rural aspect of others because it implies the use of every kind of trap for soot and dust, and the certainty that in a few years these pretty red mouldings and carvings will be as black as Newgate. The two objections come to the same thing if I try to point out, what I have preached in vain for years, that all these charming gardens and villas betray the same want. Mr. Norman Shaw, however irregular and even anomalous some of his designs may be, always shows that he has thoroughly thought out his proportions, and also that he is thoroughly acquainted with the sterner rules of the style with which at the moment he may be, so to speak, playing. But there is very little of this appearance about most of these daring experiments in brick and tiles ; and too many of them look as if the architect was by no means sure of the effect he was trying to produce. There are many charming "bits," suitable for a sketcher, among them : but there is the same want, a want of thought, of brains perhaps, to use Reynolds' expression, which mars them all, at least to my mind.

When we have passed through this new quarter we may approach the Museum region, and take the various buildings and institutions in detail. We have already said something about Hale House, and about the name of Cromwell in Kensington (chapter iv.).

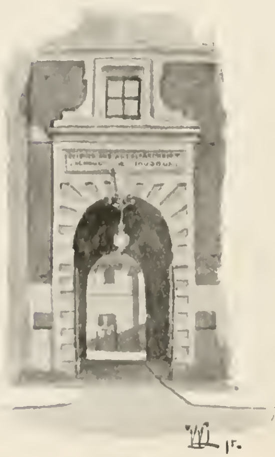
The South Kensington Museum, it cannot be denied, is a rival to the older institution in Bloomsbury, and to the National Gallery also. Strictly speaking it is only a collection of certain objects of art and antiquity for the use of the schools of the Science and Art Department. But in reality it is much more. The



ALBERT HALL MANSIONS.

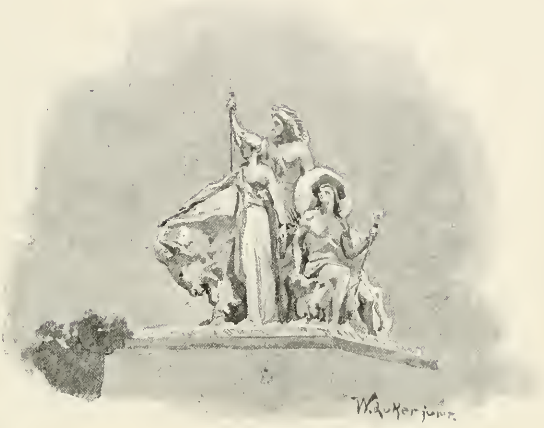
visitor knows nothing about the schools. He goes to see things similar to those he can see at the British Museum or in Trafalgar Square: and on the whole, whether it is in pictures or objects of other kinds, the ignorant man derives more instruction from a visit to the South Kensington than from twice as much time spent in either of the other galleries: the reason being that the convenience and information of the visitor is the first object aimed at. Everything is clearly labelled. Its pedigree and its price are added to its name if possible: and, even though there are numerous mistakes and mis-statements on these labels, they are undoubtedly very useful, especially to the student.

Everything at South Kensington, even it may be said the rows of houses, sprang directly from the Great Exhibition of 1851, although a school of design had been opened at Somerset House as early as the first of June 1837, a few weeks before her Majesty's accession. The receipts at the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park left no less than £170,000 in the hands of the commissioners, and when in 1856 a great part of Kensington Gore was in the market this sum was supplemented by a grant from parliament, and £300,000 in all were spent in the purchase of a site which is still partially open, but on which nearly all the South Kensington institutions have been, or are being, built. The Gore House estate formed the central portion, with an oblong field belonging to Smith's charity. These two holdings are in St. Margaret's and form "the Gore." On the western side was the Villars estate, within the boundaries of Kensington, an outlying part of which was exchanged with the Smith trustees.



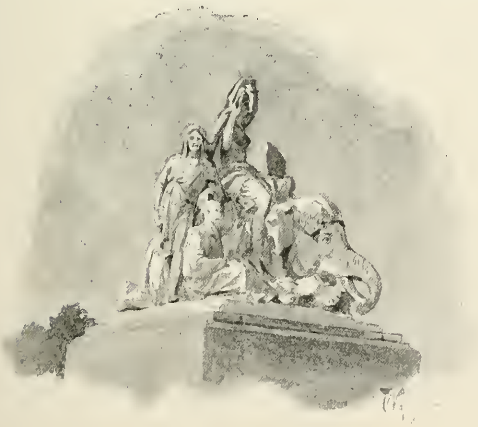
ENTRANCE TO THE SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT, SOUTH KENSINGTON.

The greater part of this estate is in the parish of St. Margaret, Westminster; but the South Kensington Museum itself, being on the Hale House estate,


W. Luker junr.

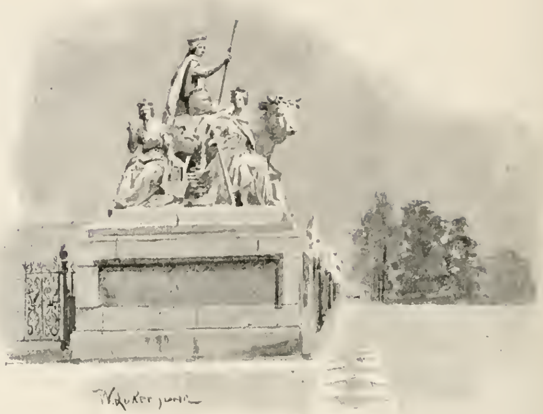
ALBERT MEMORIAL—AMERICA.

is in Kensington, or rather Brompton. The boundary leaves the high road a few doors west of the Albert Hall, dividing what used to be Hyde Park Terrace from what used to be Lower Gore, both now called simply Kensington Gore. A boundary mark is on No. 16. The line descending the hill in a southerly direction runs through the Horticultural Gardens, or the space they occupied, cutting off about a fifth of the area, which is in Kensington, until it reaches a point nearly abreast of Queen's Gate Place, when it turns abruptly eastward and crosses Princes Gardens and Ennismore Gardens on its way to Knightsbridge. Thus then, the Albert Hall, the schools of Cookery and Needlework, the India Museum, the "City and Guilds of London Institute," and the late site of part of the National Portrait Gallery, are in Westminster; but the new British Museum of Natural History, the School of Science, and the South Kensington Museum itself, with its Schools of Art, are in Kensington.



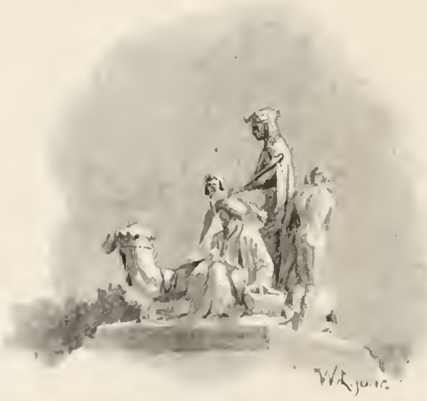
ALBERT MEMORIAL—ASIA.

It is a subject for regret that of all these important buildings not one shows any architectural features of a character likely to instruct the mind or improve the taste of a pupil at the schools.

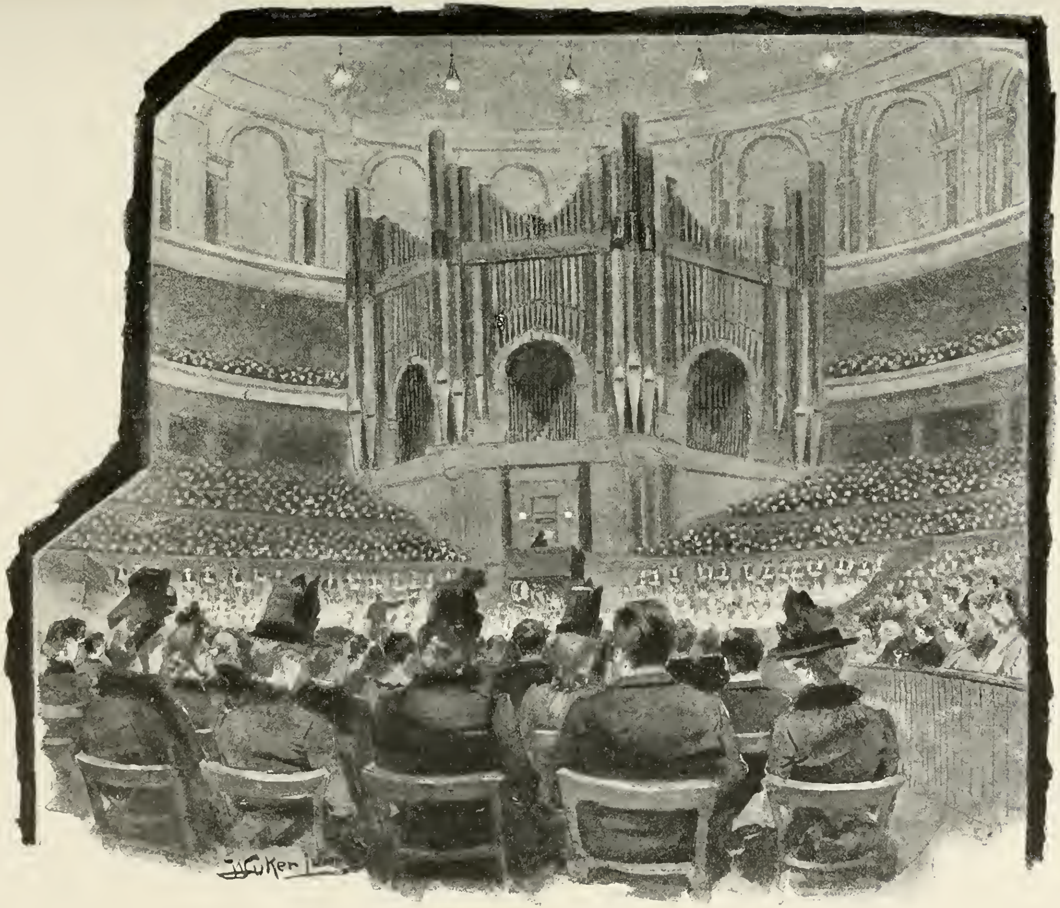


ALBERT MEMORIAL—EUROPE.

I can hardly criticise them in detail. Architectural nomenclature contains no technical terms to apply to the new Natural History Museum, for example, or the City Institute. They are built in defiance of all the rules of proportion laid down by the architects of the last generation, and equally in defiance of all the rules of taste on which in our own time Mr. Ruskin and other writers have so strongly insisted. The only adjective which will characterise the style of the Albert Hall or of such parts of the South Kensington Museum as are completed, together with the other buildings just named, is "anomalous." They are subject to no known laws of artistic beauty. True, they are lavishly ornamented, but ornament out of place is worse than waste; it becomes in itself deformity: and the spectator who sees a poor design covered with carved terra-cotta, or yellow cast mouldings of no interest, is likely to suspect that the architect's object is not so much to set off as to conceal his building, just as in the east little children wear gaudy bangles to divert attention from their faces or limbs and so avert the influence of the evil eye.



ALBERT MEMORIAL—AFRICA.

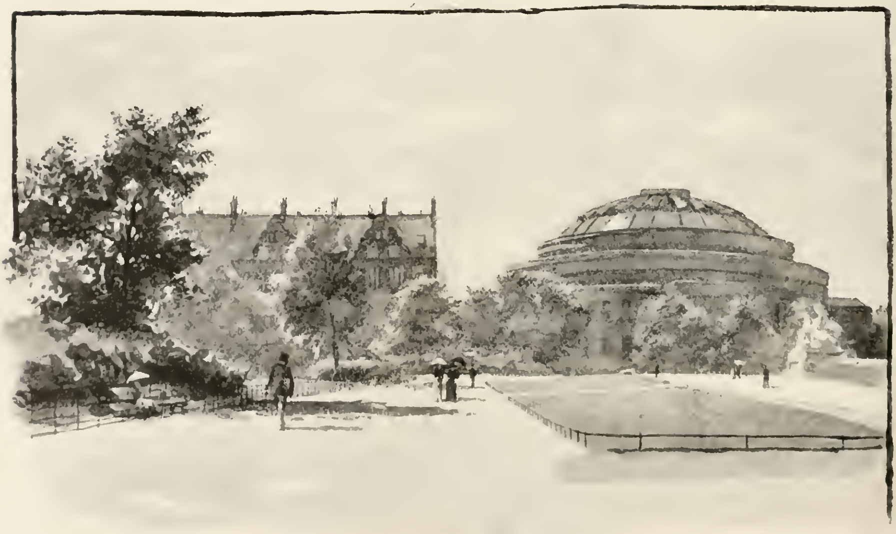


CONCERT IN THE ALBERT HALL.

That such buildings as those of the late Captain Fowke, of the late General Scott, of Mr. Waterhouse, R.A., or of Mr. Colcutt, his pupil, should be chosen as the home and headquarters of English art training, is in itself nothing less than a national misfortune.

Of all these buildings, to which we may add the Albert Memorial Cross and the Royal College of Music, there is only one which it is possible to criticise, namely the School of Science, for the design of which it is understood that General Scott was responsible. It has a curious effect where it stands, the one edifice in which there is any attempt to combine or contrast height and width, or to put ornament where it may serve a legitimate purpose, by accentuating features and relieving the studied plainness of the greater part of the composition. Still it is not a very lovely building, and anywhere else would be passed over contemptuously.

Mr. Moncure D. Conway, an American gentleman long resident here, has published his views on the Albert Hall, the Memorial and its statues, and other features of the South Kensington landscape. He is an enthusiastic admirer of one

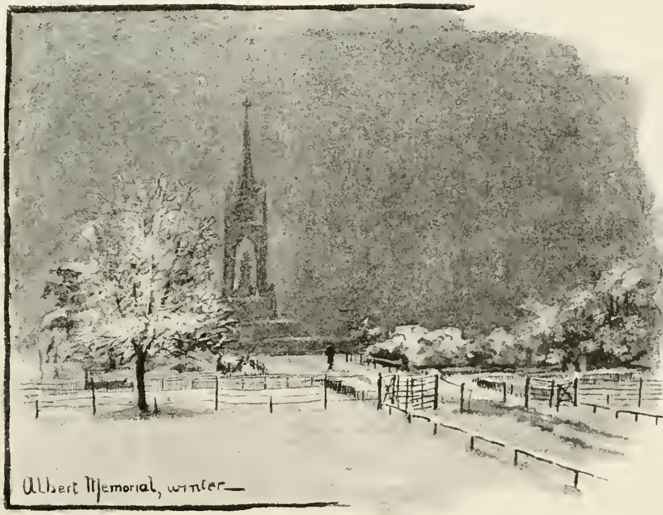


ALBERT HALL AND MANSIONS.

and all, and in his book (*Travels in South Kensington*) he gives the following descriptions, which, as they may tally better with the views of some readers than my own, I venture to quote. Of the Albert Hall he says :—

> " Since the erection of the Coliseum in Rome no building so stupendous and noble has been built as this. It is a pile worthy of Rome in its palmiest day ; with its superb oval form, an external frieze and cornice moulded after the Elgin marbles, devoted to international industrial and art exhibitions and to music, it stands as grandly amid the European civilisation of to-day as the Parthenon stood in Greece. This palace of art, and the Albert monument in the park opposite, make the beauty spot of London."

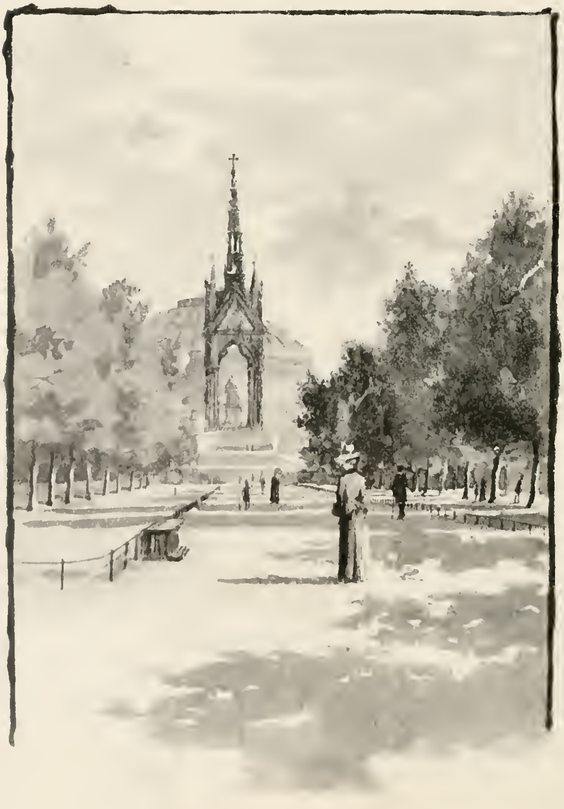
This is " tall " praise, and I confess I cannot see how it relates to the Albert Hall. Where is the frieze " moulded after the Elgin marbles "? I have never seen it or the splendid cornice Mr. Conway mentions. A really good cornice might have worked wonders with the huge mass, which, as it appears now, might have been designed on the graceful and familiar curves of the common bandbox. To compare it with the Parthenon is to compare a building which the want of any kind of proportion reduces to an insignificance from which lavish ornament cannot rescue it, with a building of small size so exquisitely proportioned that it remains grand though all ornament has been stripped from it. That was a most unhappy comparison, Mr. Conway ! But to continue : of the Memorial Mr. Conway says :—



Albert Memorial, winter—

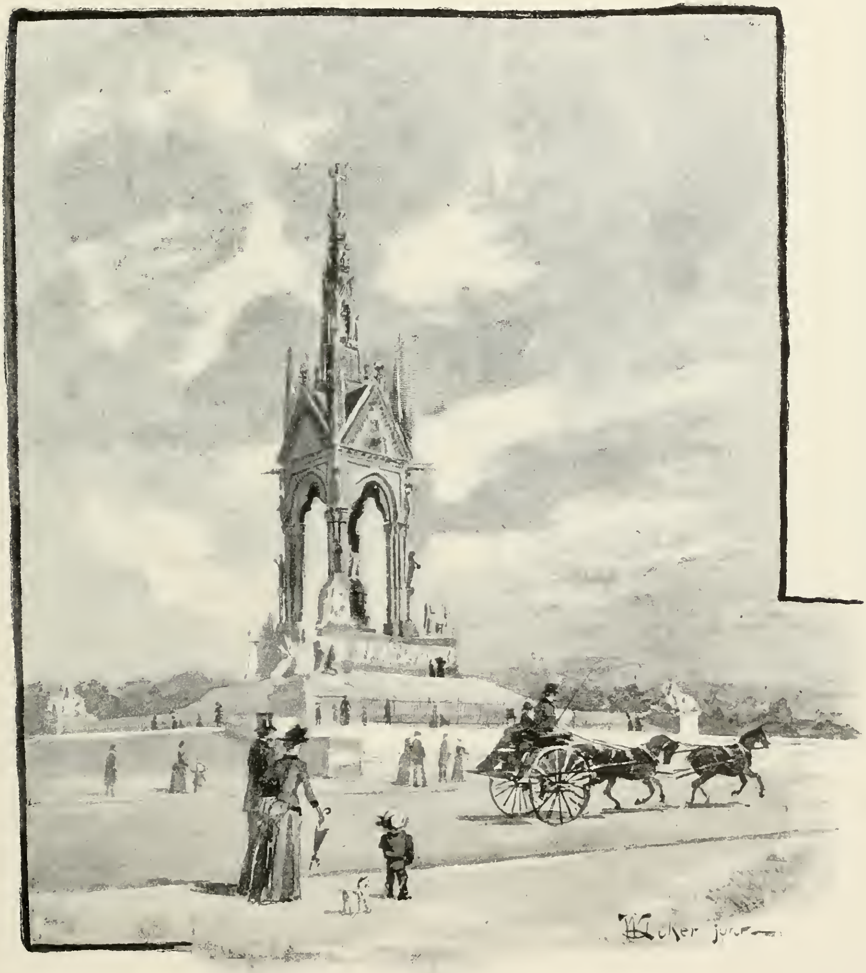
> " The latter is

beyond question the finest monumental structure in Europe. This afternoon, while the golden sunset of a balmy spring day was glorifying the sky, I walked to it passing by the old Kensington Palace, where the little girl was informed that she was Queen of England who has since had her name associated with her country's longest period of peace and prosperity, passing beneath the ancient patriarchal trees and through the gardens beautified by flowers and plants from every region of the world, until at length I saw the spire of the monument shining like flame through the boughs. There, against the clear, orange-tinted sky, the monument stood forth, with its grand marbles at the four corners—Asia, with its genius mounted on a camel; America on her buffalo, Europe on her bull, Africa on her elephant, and each the centre of a representative group—and its noble reliefs and frescoes rising to the winged angels at the top; and it appeared to me that every one of the one hundred and sixty-nine life-size portrait figures—the painters from Cimabue to Turner, the architects from Cheops to Gilbert Scott, who designed this monument; the sculptors from Chares to Thorwaldsen; nay, the very composers and poets from St. Ambrose to Rossini, from Homer to Goethe— had done something to raise this triumphal pile, about which their forms seem to move in stately procession. The architects and sculptors are the work of Philip; the poets, composers, and painters by Armstead; and while both have done admirably it must be said that the reliefs by the latter are not surpassed by any modern sculpture."

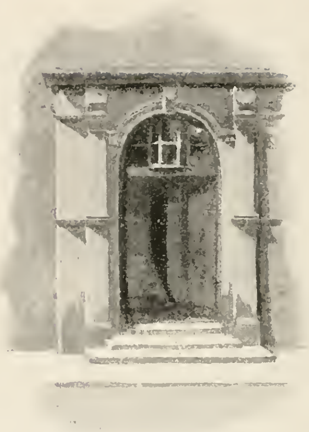


ALBERT MEMORIAL AND ALBERT HALL.

As Mr. Conway concludes this glowing passage with a sneer at Prince Albert, we may acquit him of any of that toadyism to great folk which is the most common fault of his countrymen ; but it is clear that he honestly admires the Memorial, standing thus almost, if not quite, alone among art critics. For this reason I have taken so long a passage from his book ; but I observe that he omits to inform his reader on many points of importance, and that he makes some little mistakes in his description. There are no "frescoes" on the monument, and no reliefs "rising to the winged angels." The four groups are

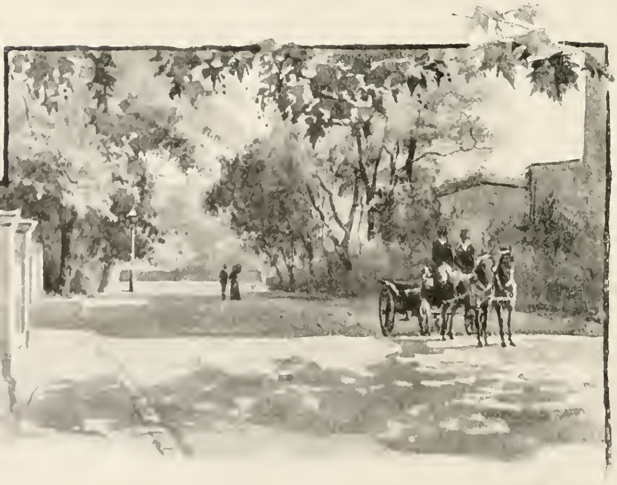


ALBERT MEMORIAL.



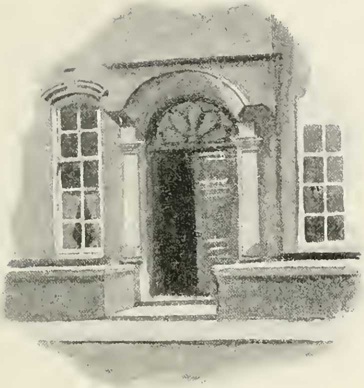
IN ALBERT HALL MANSIONS.

Asia by Foley, who also designed the central statue of the Prince; Europe, by MacDowell; Africa, by Theed; and America, by Bell. The smaller groups are Commerce by Thornycroft, Manufactures by Weeks, Engineering by Lawlor, and Agriculture by Marshall. The cross is 175 feet high, and the whole building cost £132,000. The details of the work are very fine throughout, but at a glance one observes that it must have been designed for the sake of the details rather than for the general effect. In the first place, any one can see that it has not that first quality in architecture, the appearance of stability. Instead of looking as it should, more secure than it is, it looks as if it could not stand for ten minutes longer; the fact being that it is a feat, not of architecture, but of engineering; and a most uncomfortable kind of feat it is, the ephemeral effect being greatly enhanced by the dark masses of the upper parts of the structure, the red granite, the bronze and the gilding, resting on a white base, instead of having a good strongly-coloured foundation and the white marble higher up.



HYDE PARK GATE.

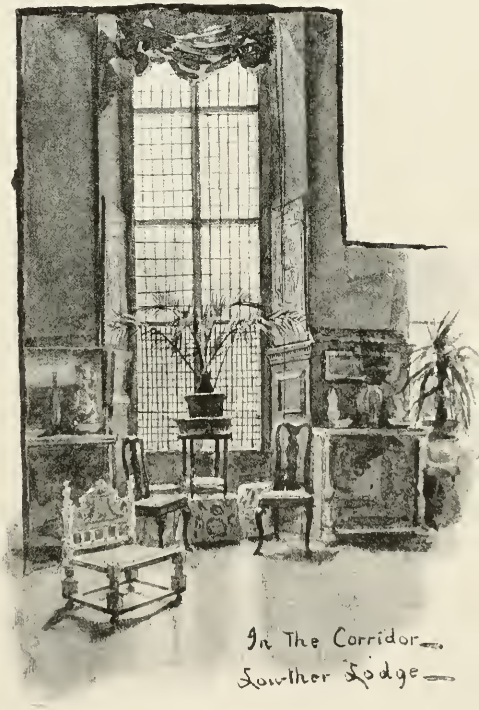
The Great Exhibition, the Crystal Palace, of 1851, stood just east of the Memorial, crossing the modern roadway and extending



IN ALBERT HALL MANSIONS.

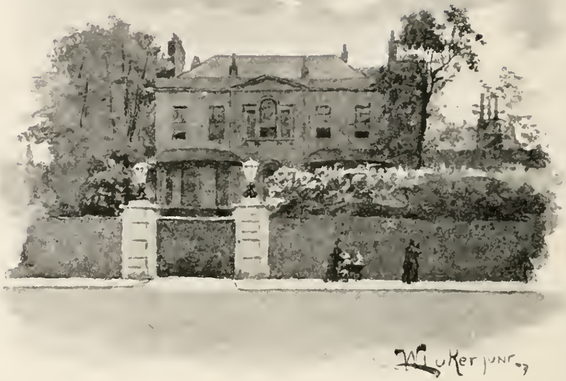
1851 feet into the park, parallel with Rotten Row.

The Albert Hall does not exactly face the Memorial, which is a pity, as both depend on the situation and each other for any effect they have. A set of lofty residential flats has of late years sprung up beside the Hall and greatly improved its appearance, as they afford the eye a measure for its vast size otherwise disguised by the want of good proportions. A smaller building nearer the corner is by Mr. Norman Shaw, and is much injured by the proximity of the Mansions. Lowther Lodge is a very good example of this architect's style, and bears very close examination. To the westward of this site, nearly where the Albert Hall is now, stood the famous "Kensington Gore House," Lady Blessington's residence, and to the east of it, where the garden of Lowther Lodge is now, there was a smaller villa where Lord Auckland's clever sister, Miss Emily Eden, long lived. Further east, in the Gore, and therefore in the parish of Westminster, we come to Lord Listowel's estate, marked by Ennismore Gardens, in which are some well-designed mansions, one of which—Bolney House—a good example of simplicity in domestic



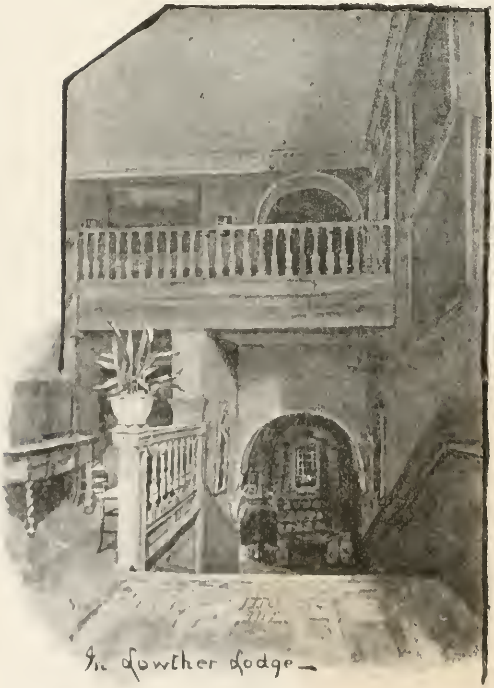
In The Corridor—
Lowther Lodge—

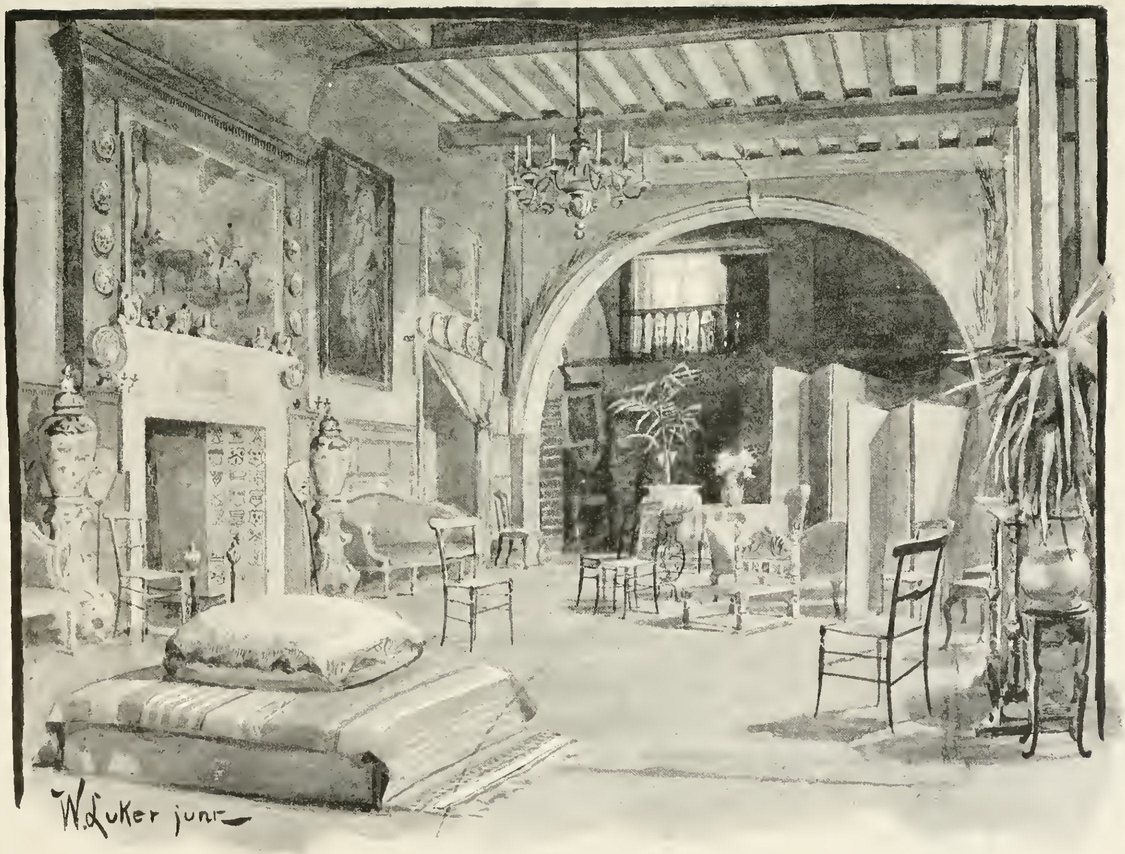
architecture, seldom followed, — contains the famous Huth Library. Facing the road are two fine houses, one built by the late Lady Marian Alford, and now the property of Mr. J. Williamson, M.P., and the other, Kingston House, Lord Listowel's residence.


W. Luker junr.

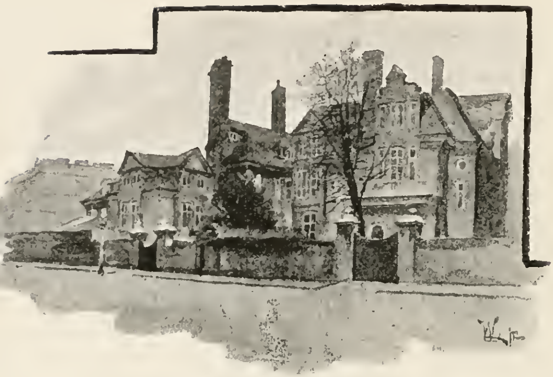
KINGSTON HOUSE, KENSINGTON GORE.

As we proceed down Exhibition Road southward we come to a very charming group, Lowther Gardens, two red brick houses by Mr. J. J. Stevenson; and then to the so-called "City and Guilds of London Institute." What are the guilds of London? The institute, apart from its situation, for it ought to be in the city, and its absurd name, will prove a great boon to the working man when its objects and advantages are better known: but it is many miles too far from the dwellings of those for whom it is intended. The building, in a dark red brick with carvings in lighter brick, has no merits that I can mention, unless, perhaps, that it is very convenient for its purpose.


In Lowther Lodge —


W. Luker junr

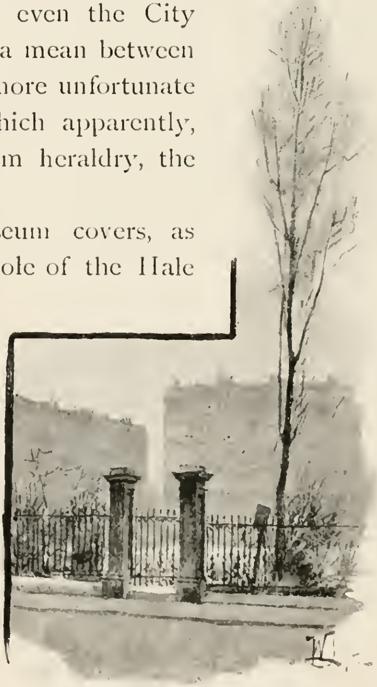
IN CORRIDOR, LOWTHER LODGE.



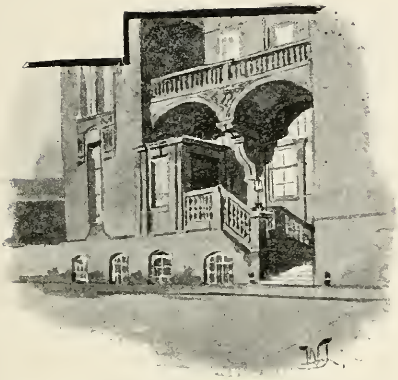
LOWTHER LODGE, KENSINGTON GORE.

The India Museum and other collections fill the galleries adjoining the old Horticultural Gardens. They do not present any features of architectural or historical interest as buildings. We all remember the exhibitions held here in recent years, and some of us remember a series of shows on the same ground which did not succeed so well twelve or fourteen years ago. A new road and a new building are to be made across part of the site, for the Imperial Institute. So far as the designs have been made public they seem likely to rival even the City Institute in ugliness, and to form a mean between that and Mr. Waterhouse's still more unfortunate Natural History Museum, with which apparently, to borrow a convenient term from heraldry, the Institute will be "addorsed."

The South Kensington Museum covers, as nearly as I can make out, the whole of the Hale House estate: for it is described in the *Official Guide* as standing on twelve acres of land, purchased at a cost of £60,000. The old house still exists, though it is not easy to get more than a glimpse of it. The Museum is still unfinished, the front having never been built. The old "Brompton Boilers," as the first iron-roofed Museum used to be



ENNISMORE GARDENS.

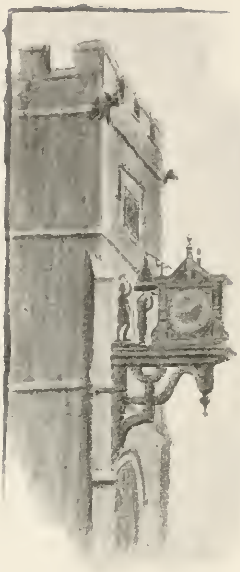


NO. 1 LOWTHER GARDENS, KENSINGTON GORE.

called, have almost disappeared, and permanent courts and galleries have taken their place. It is not possible to estimate how highly Sir Henry Cole's memory may hereafter be placed by posterity: but the South Kensington Museum unquestionably owes its existence to his exertions and his pertinacity. His early career, in the Record Office, and as an author under the name of Felix Summerly, cannot be considered successful: but the exhibition of 1851 gave him an opportunity of coming to the front, by which he was well able to profit. He and one or two of his associates seem to me to have made considerable use of the name of the late Prince Consort in carrying out schemes which, admirable in themselves, would probably have encountered less opposition had they been more openly presented. It seems probable, though we can hardly pronounce our opinion on events so recent, that Sir Henry Cole created much of the opposition with which the work of the Science and Art Department at South Kensington was received. He contrived, however, to obtain the support of the Government in some of his most high-handed proceedings, and there can be no doubt that he well deserved the mosaic memorial set up on one of the staircases of the Museum:—

Erected to record the eminent services
of Sir Henry Cole, K.C.B., who in addition
to other labours in the promotion
of science and art devoted twenty years
to the formation of this Museum.
1853-1873.

A little to the west of the South Kensington Museum is the British Museum of Natural History. The birds, beasts, and creeping things, as well as the fossils and other collections of the kind, were removed here in 1881 from the British

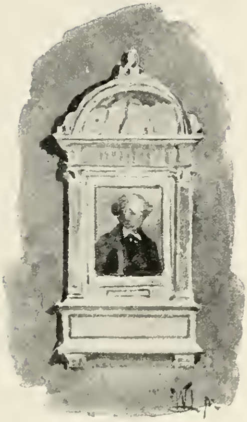


CHURCH CLOCK, OLD LONDON.

Museum in Bloomsbury. There is much inconvenience in this removal, as the new museum is too far from the library and out of the reach of the people who used to enjoy it most. Of the building the less is said the better. I understand from students that it has not even the one quality which could have excused its ugliness, namely, convenience. On this site stood the Exhibition of 1862, with its two domes, which, though otherwise a useful building, was condemned and pulled down by a special vote of the House of Commons, as if its extreme ugliness was not to be borne. The site has certainly been most unfortunate.

The Museum is 675 feet long, and faces the Cromwell Road, along which we may now retrace our steps westward, to complete our perambulation. There is very little to notice, except new houses, some of them very handsome, until we reach Gloucester Road, which will take us back into the main road a little west of the Gore. It is called after that Duchess of Gloucester whose marriage was one of the causes of the Royal Marriage Act: she was an illegitimate daughter of Sir Edward Walpole, and had married first Lord Waldegrave, who left her a widow in 1763. In 1766, she married William Henry, Duke of Gloucester, one of the younger brothers of George III. When he died in 1805, the Duchess came to live here, and built a villa, which she called after her relative,

FOUNTAIN IN OLD LONDON.

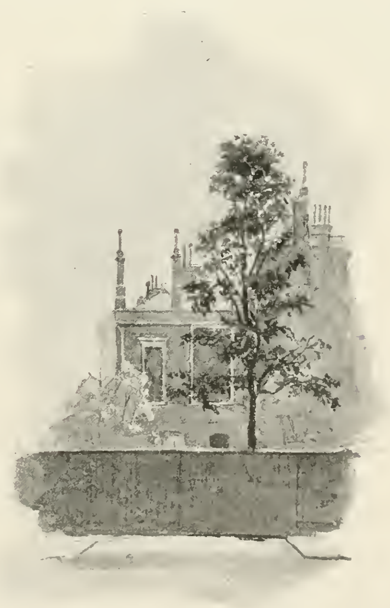


SIR HENRY COLE'S MONUMENT, SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.

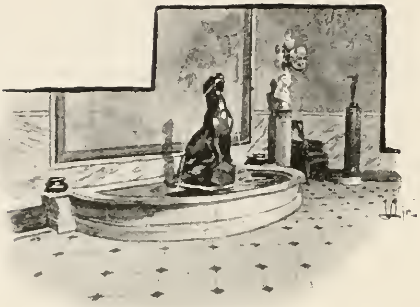
Lord Orford. The site had been known previously as Florida Gardens, where, says Faulkner, "a Mr. Hyam, an ingenious German gardener," raised flowers, and finding much company resort to him, procured a license and opened a tavern, and "converted his grounds into a public garden; but by his subsequent misconduct he became a bankrupt, and the premises were shut up."

The Duchess of Gloucester died in 1807, very soon after her coming to "Hogmore Lane," but she survived long enough to leave the new name to Gloucester Road. The Princess Sophia, her daughter, sold the villa to George Canning, and here his son, the future Governor-General of India, was born in 1812. The grounds occupied six acres: and the house was small and low. Canning resided here for many years; and Mr. Callcott, who died in 1882, remembered him very well as attending service at the parish church, where he occupied the royal pew, and always stood up while the vicar gave out his text.

The upper end of Gloucester Road is Palace Gate, and in a field on the east side was built, some time after 1847, a square named "Kensington Gate." At that time a toll gate stood across the road, just where "Thorney House" is now, and cavalry barracks were behind the wall of Kensington Gardens opposite. The Campden Arms, a public-

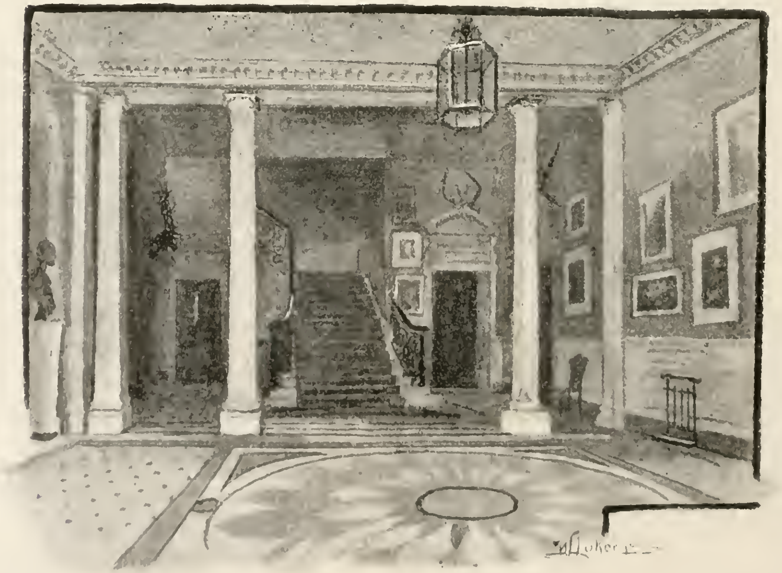


SIR JOHN E. MILLAIS'S STUDIO.

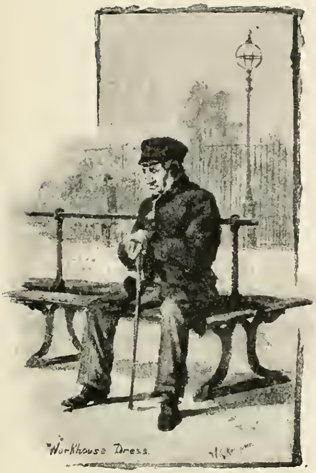


SIR JOHN MILLAIS'S HOUSE—THE FOUNTAIN.

house, was at the eastern corner of Hogmore Lane, Noel House at the other, the western. It was the residence of Mr. George Aust, some members of whose family are commemorated in the church. The land consisted of about four acres, which, with much other land adjoining, was the property of the Noel family mentioned above as being the heirs of Sir Baptist Hicks of Campden House. Some nursery gardens intervened between Noel House and Love Lane, now Victoria Road; and when Faulkner wrote, a large new house, "built in the cottage style," was the residence of Mr. Samuel Drew. Of Kensington Square we have already written (chapter iv.) so before we leave this part of the parish we had better turn back for a few minutes and see what lies between Hogmore Lane and the Gore. It is now nearly a continuous row of houses until we come to Queen's Gate: but there are still a few detached villas, and at least one

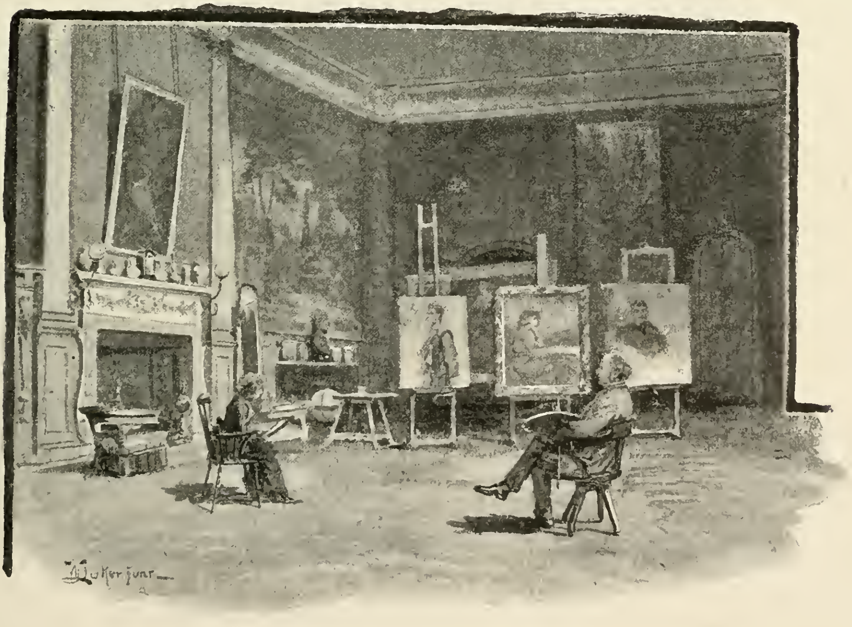


SIR JOHN MILLAIS'S HOUSE—THE HALL.


Workhouse Dress.

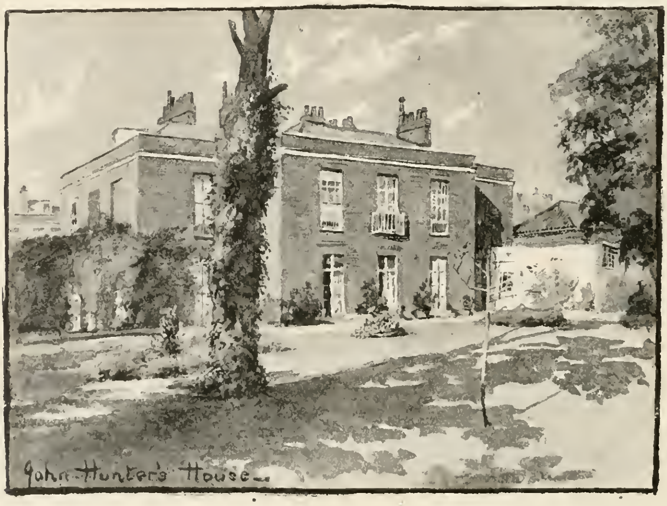
open space. In Palace Gate is Sir J. Everett Millais's house and studio, a large, plain, red-brick villa. At the corner, where once stood the Campden Arms Inn and the turnpike gate, is the white stone villa already mentioned as Thorney House. It stands on ground which belonged to the Campden Trustees, from whom it was bought in 1874 by the Duke of Bedford, whose predecessor had built the villa. The purchase money was £18,500. The house is now occupied by Mr. Watney, who has bought from the same trustees the site of 12 and 13 Campden Terrace, now numbered into Hyde Park Gate, for £22,500.

The Vestry Report for 1810 says of the site of Kensington Gate that "the Earl of Warwick erected a building here for a Pest House in the time of the Great Plague, and it appears to

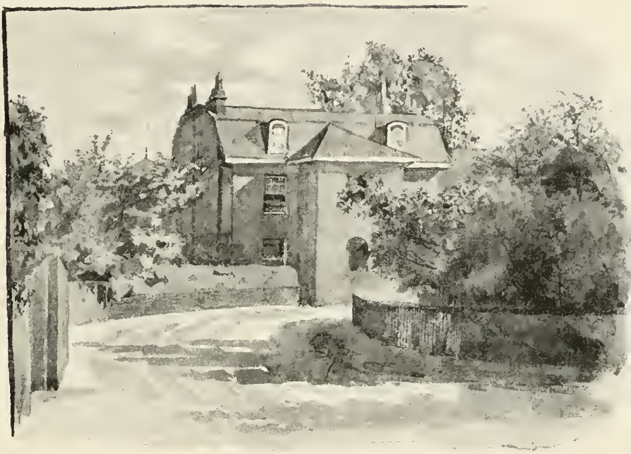


SIR JOHN MILLAIS'S HOUSE—THE STUDIO.

have been afterwards used by the parish for placing in it the parish poor." In 1728 it was repaired by the parish. In 1751 the lord of the manor of Earl's Court attempted to recover it, but a compromise was entered into, and a few years later, chiefly through the charity of a Mr. Mountain, it was again rebuilt. In 1803 the house was assigned for the residence and instruction of female pauper children. It was still standing in 1847. Kensington Gate, a small square, was built in 1849, on a 99 years' lease.

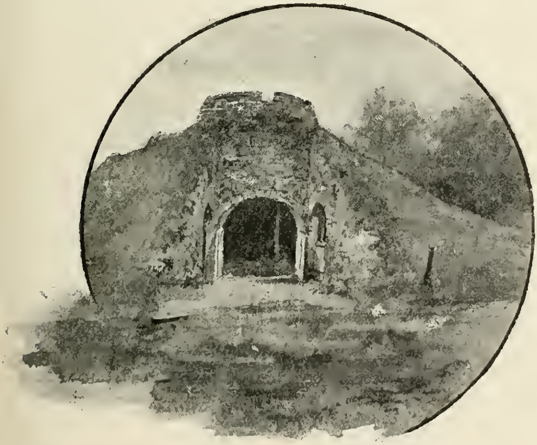


A narrow passage leads from the high road into all that is left of "Butt's Field." It is named with the rest of the ground along this part of the road "Hyde Park Gate." Two detached villas, Stoke Lodge and Cleve Lodge, face the oval open space, and a street of houses marks the eastern boundary of the estate, the whole of which belongs to the charity trustees of the parish. In 1645, Lady Campden (Elizabeth, the widow of Baptist Hicks, Viscount Campden, and daughter of Richard May) left to the parish two hundred pounds to be laid out in the purchase of land. The trustees, Sir John Thorowgood and seven others, accordingly bought from William Muschamp "a



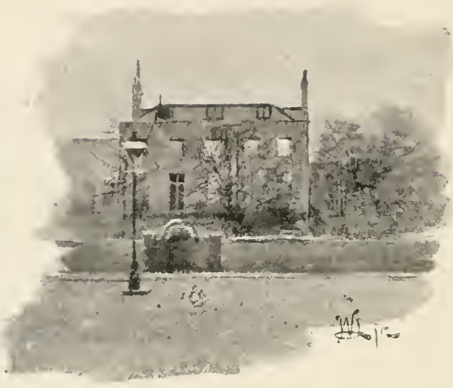
CLEVE LODGE.

close called Butt's Field; containing 5 acres, 2 roods, and 30 perches, and also three roods to be taken out of Middle Quayle Field, at the south end of Butt's Field." This estate, it was estimated, would produce £10 a year, and Lady Campden had desired that half of that sum should be given to poor and needy people "that be of good life and conversation," and the remainder to be spent in apprenticing one poor boy or more belonging to the parish. This estate is let on long leases in five holdings, and only produces now about £336 a year: but no doubt, as the leases fall in about 1910, it will become much more valuable. The first houses were called Campden Terrace. They were built between 1821 and 1838. To the westward of the site of Noel House is De Vere Gardens, built on the site of a livery stable and riding school. They existed behind a row of small houses which have also disappeared, named Craven Place. The Victoria Road, with a few short offshoots, contains nothing of much interest.



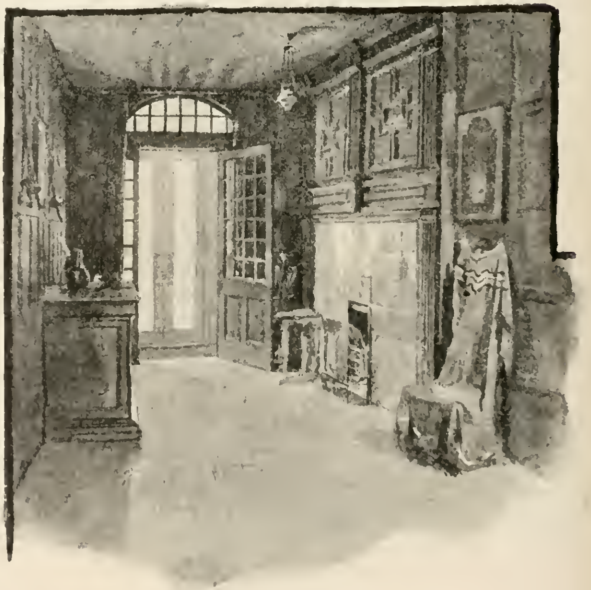
THE LION'S DEN.

I have already spoken

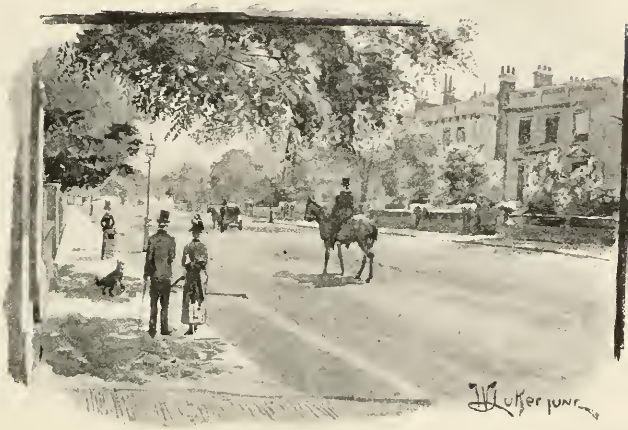


COLEHERNE HOUSE.

of the sites of Colby House and Kensington House, and of the Square; and we may descend Victoria Road, almost on the same ground as Love Lane, of which a little fragment remains as a footpath; and returning through Cornwall Gardens, and an immense quarter covered with fine houses, may regain the Cromwell Road. There is not much to detain us in it. The houses are not very new, and not very old, and few are beautiful. But if we stop at Earl's Court Road, we may find more that is of interest. The history of the manor of the earls has already been detailed. Of the Court House nothing now remains. Until 1886 the house which John Hunter the great anatomist lived in was almost untouched. Now it has given place to new red-brick villas. Before it was obliterated a mound marked the place where Hunter had made dens for the wild beasts he kept. The garden was the scene of his contest with a bull the Queen had given him: "The bull overpowered him and got him



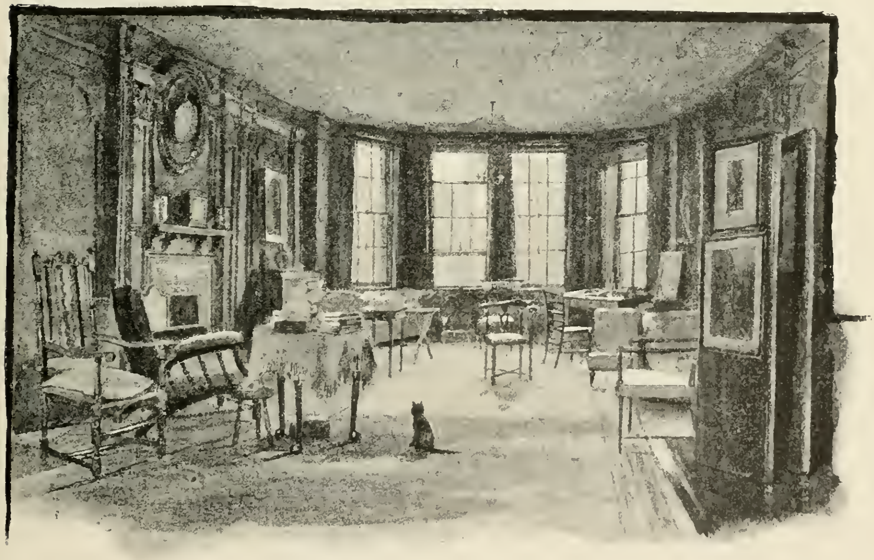
THE HALL, NO. 32 ADDISON ROAD.



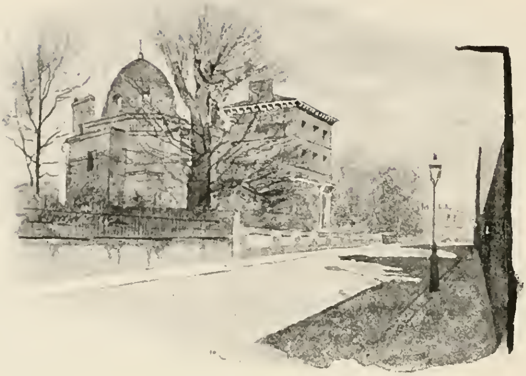
ADDISON ROAD.

down, and had not one of the servants accidentally come by and frightened the animal away, this frolic would probably have cost him his life." Down to last year the copper chaldron still existed in which Hunter boiled the body of the Irish giant, whose skeleton is in the Museum of the College of Surgeons. Mrs. Hunter, a sister of Sir Everard Home, was the author of that lovely song, "My mother bids me bind my hair," to Handel's music. She was an accomplished artist and published a volume of poems.

After Hunter's death, in 1795, the house was sold and was

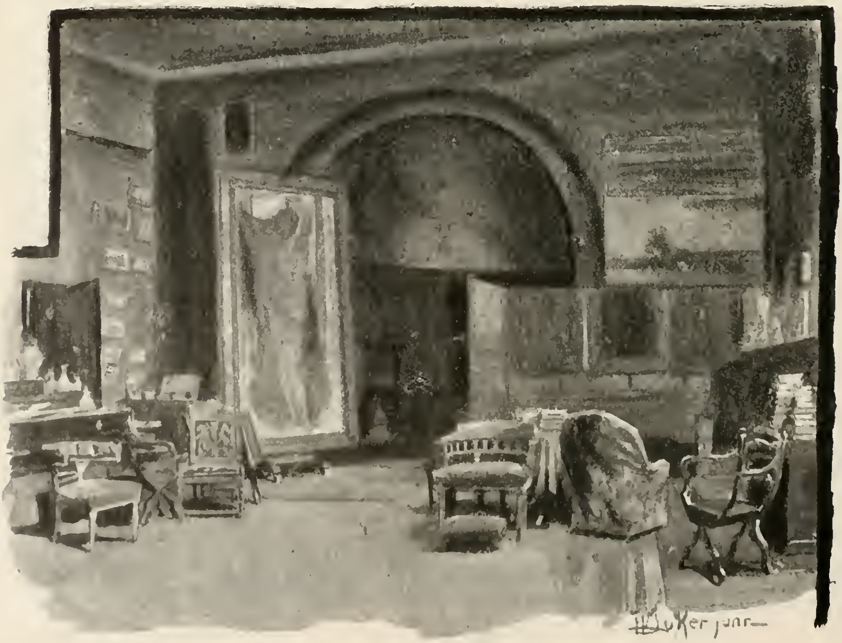


DRAWING ROOM, NO. 32 ADDISON ROAD.



SIR FREDERICK LEIGHTON'S HOUSE.

occupied successively by some four or five owners, including a Duke of Richmond and a Mr. Nathaniel Gostling. In 1811 it was tenanted by Lord Albemarle, whose son, the present earl, mentions it in his *Fifty Years of my Life.* The lamented Princess Charlotte used sometimes to spend a Sunday here. Lord Albemarle remembers the little princess enticing his sisters, then children, to the top of the mound, in order to roll them into a bed of nettles below, and many similar escapades. The next neighbours were the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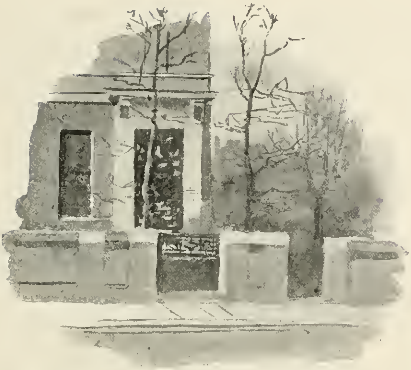
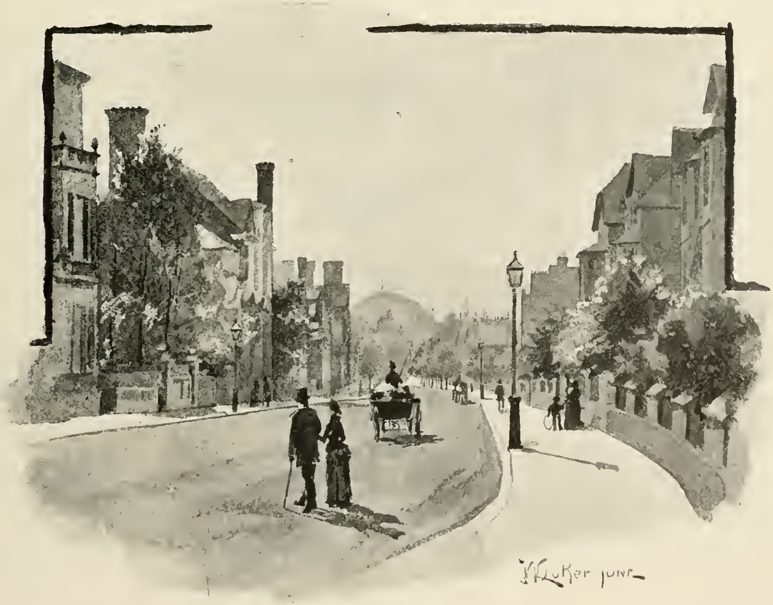
SIR FREDERICK LEIGHTON'S HOUSE—THE STUDIO.



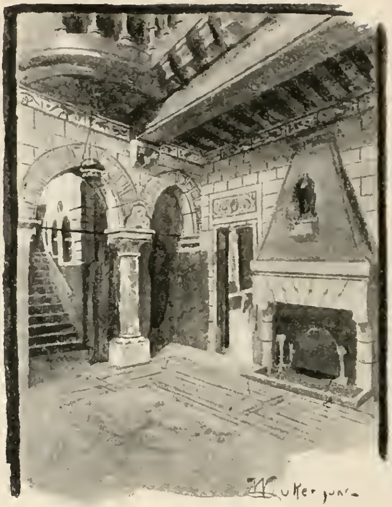
HALL DOOR, SIR FREDERICK LEIGHTON'S HOUSE.

family of "Mr. Gunter, the confectioner, nicknamed by us, Currant-jelly-hall." The Gunter estate lay, and lies, on the other or western side of the road, and consists of about sixty acres, now almost all built over.

By Earl's Court Road we reach the High Street of Kensington, where a turnpike stood until 1864, nearly opposite to the southern end of Addison Road. This comparatively new thoroughfare extends northward to the Uxbridge Road, and is flanked by Holland Road and Russell Road which faces the "Addison Road" or "West Kensington" Station of the railway which marks the boundary of the parish on this side. Here, as elsewhere in Kensington, the changes have been greatest in the past few years. There are still, however, a few

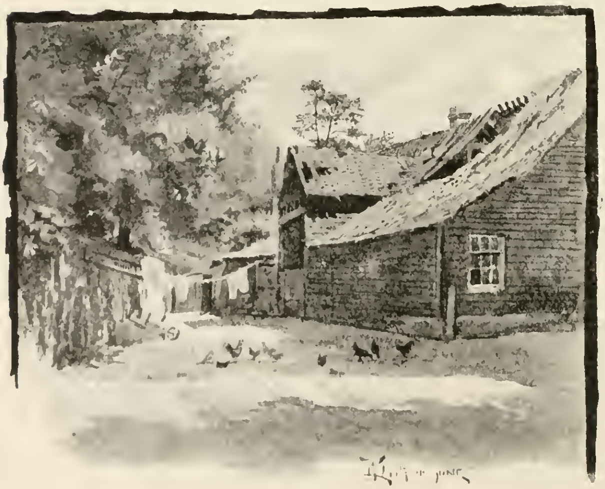


MELBURY ROAD.



MR. BURGES'S HOUSE, 9 MELBURY ROAD—THE HALL.

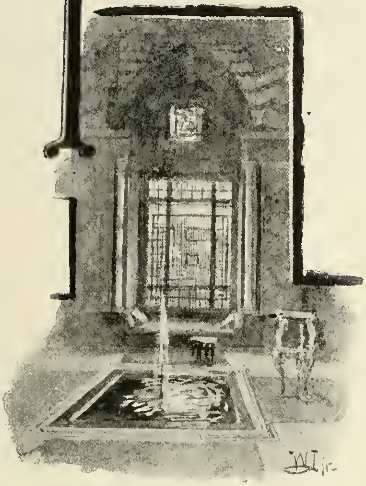
detached villas and a good many trees along Addison Road, which is said to derive its name from a tradition that Addison, while he lived at Holland House, used to walk in an avenue which existed here. About half-way up the road, on the right or eastern side, is a gate which opens on a pretty wooded lane that leads up to Holland House. This may well have been the original entrance to the "old house" at West Town, in which Sir Walter lived while "Cope Castle" was being built; but the manor or court house was always a villa which still exists, somewhat Gothicised, close to St. Barnabas Church. A toll-gate used to stand at the northern end of Addison Road, and since its removal in 1864 all that part of the place has been greatly altered. An old villa, Lidham Lodge, I think, stood with extensive gardens about it till the other day.



OLD BARN, HOLLAND PARK ROAD.

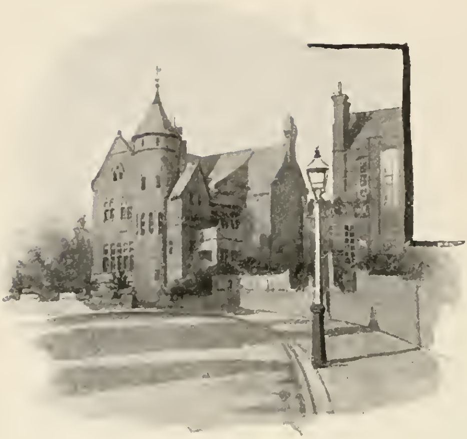
From Addison Road on the right, or eastern side, two roads open which must not be neglected. This district rivals St. John's Wood in the number and eminence of the artists who inhabit it. We first come to Holland Park Road, formerly St. Mary Abbot's Mews. A very remarkable house on the north side is that of Sir Frederick Leighton, the president of the Royal Academy.

IT contains some beautiful apartments, including a domed saloon, adorned with oriental carving and stained glass. A few old cottages and barns are still in this road, but are rapidly disappearing. At the eastern end we enter Melbury Road, which, turning a corner, rejoins Addison Road, near St. Barnabas Church. Melbury Road consists entirely of detached and semi-detached villas in red brick, some of them of beautiful design. No. 11, which faces us at the corner, and looks partly into Holland Park, is now the residence of Mr. Luke Fildes, and was inhabited by poor King Cetewayo during his brief English visit. Next to it is the Gothic villa designed for himself by the late William Burges, R.A. It is more beautiful in its details than as a whole, and the same remark applies to the interior, which is full of curious bits of ornament and quaint conceits, and is, among other things, remarkable for the design and carving of the chimney-pieces. Mr. Pullan, the late owner of the house, published a series of forty photographs, showing its features and decorations.



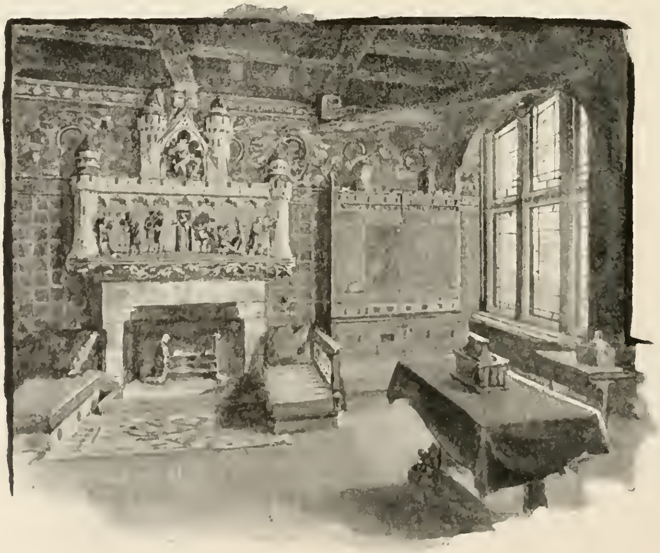
IN SIR FREDERICK LEIGHTON'S HOUSE, HOLLAND PARK ROAD.

On the opposite side, at first the western, and when we have turned the corner, the southern, the first house is that of Mr. Thornycroft, the sculptor; and at No. 6 we come to "Little Holland House," the residence and studio of Mr. G. F. Watts. The name recalls the villa of the late General Fox, which was pulled down after his death. Mr. Callcott, in a manuscript note, communicated to me by Mr. Merriman, to



MELBURY ROAD, NO. 9, DESIGNED BY BURGES.

whom I owe so much information, mentions Little Holland House: "18th October 1875. Walked out to see the last of Little Holland House, where Miss Fox and her companion, Miss Vernon, so long resided. Here Archbishop Whateley, Dr. Arnold, and Blanco White, so frequently stopped. I remember the mat at the entrance, SALVE. Sydney Smith said of Miss Fox, 'Oh! she is perfection, she always gives me the idea of an aged angel.'" General Charles Richard Fox died 13th April 1873. He left a famous collection of coins and medals. He is always understood to have been the elder brother of the fourth Lord Holland, born in 1796, before the marriage of his father in 1797 with the divorced wife of Sir Godfrey Webster. General Fox married Lady Mary Fitz-



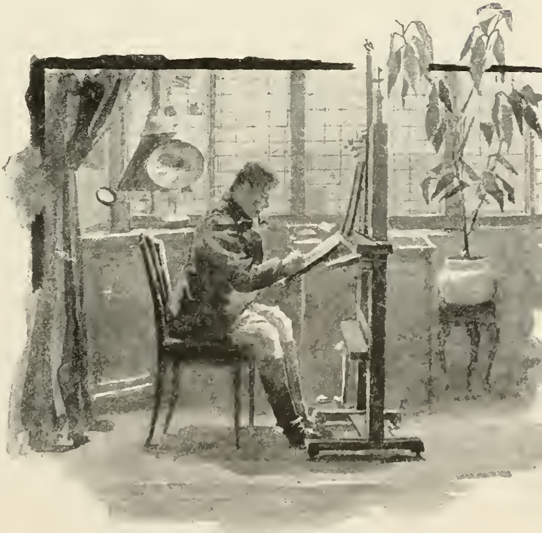
A ROOM IN NO. 9 MELBURY ROAD.

MR. G. F. WATTS'S HOUSE, NO. 6 MELBURY ROAD.

clarence, a daughter of William IV., state housekeeper at Windsor Castle, who died in 1864. As a museum of the so-called "Queen Anne" style, Melbury Road is worth a visit.

Before we proceed to the northern territory of the parish of Kensington, we may take the following passage, relating to the first buildings in the High Street, from Faulkner:—

> On the west of Earl's Terrace is the Experimental Garden belonging to the Horticultural Society of London.
>
> The adjoining land, facing the high road, is to be let on building leases.
>
> On the east of Earl's Court Lane, and facing Phillimore Place, Mr. Allen is now building two large rows of houses in the modern style, covered with plaister to resemble stone. This tasteless innovation in the art of building will entirely supersede the beautiful brickwork, which we so much admire, in our more ancient domestic structures.
>
> Proceeding down Earl's Court Lane, we arrive at the village of Earl's Court. On the west side of the road is situated the manor house, now occupied by Mr. Hutchins; the farm extends westward as far as the creek. The road to Holland House formerly ran through the

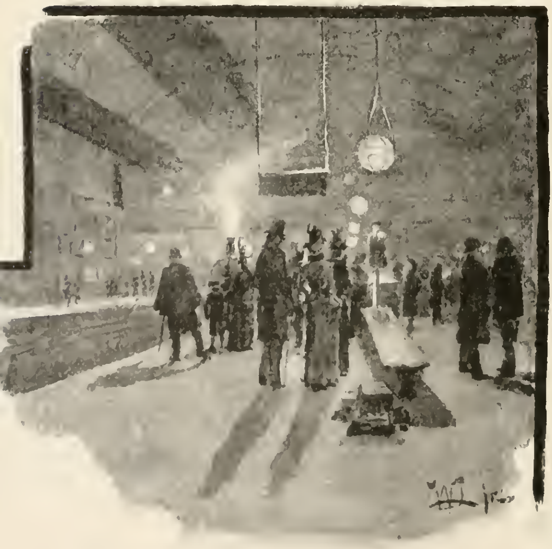


MR. LINLEY SAMBOURNE AT WORK IN HIS STUDIO.

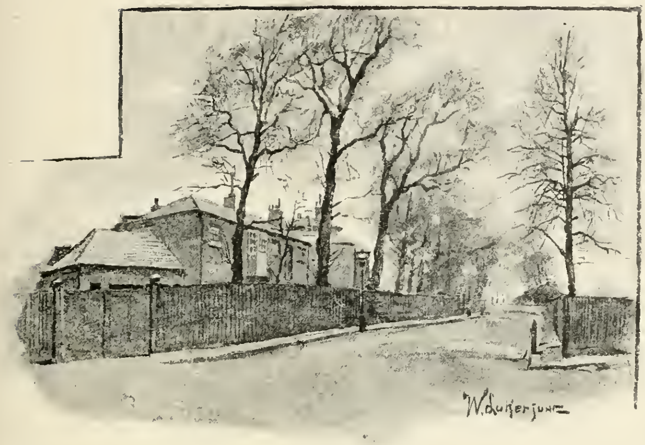
> centre of the lands, planted with elms on each side, all which have long since disappeared, but the land is still called Holland Walk.
>
> This avenue extended to Honey Lane (a corruption of Holland Lane), and thus formed a regular communication with the Fulham Road, from which Holland House forms a striking object.
>
> Many houses have been built here within these few years: Earl's Court Terrace, pleasantly situated, was built by Mr. Thomas Smith of Chelsea.

To this passage we should add that nearly all the vacant land is now built over, and the roads to the southward, which a few years ago led among orchards and detached villas with gardens, are now being covered with new rows of houses. First comes Warwick Road, then Edwardes Square, called, of course, after the family name of Lord Kensington, then Earl's Court Road, then Abingdon Road, then Allen Street, and lastly Wright's Lane, in which is Scarsdale House, already mentioned.

Of "Wright's Lane, leading to Earl's Court Fields," Faulkner observes that it "takes its name from the late Gregory Wright, Esq., who built the houses at the south end, about the year 1774. Carmarthen House, part of these buildings, is now occupied by Mrs. Tyass as a boarding school for young ladies. The adjoining house was lately occupied by Dr. W. Brown, author of the *Union Dictionary*. A little west is the residence of Captain James Carnegie. This estate, consisting of seven acres, with two tenements, was once the property of Sir Isaac Newton; the original deed of bargain and sale, dated 1726, 13 George I., with his autograph, is now in the posses-

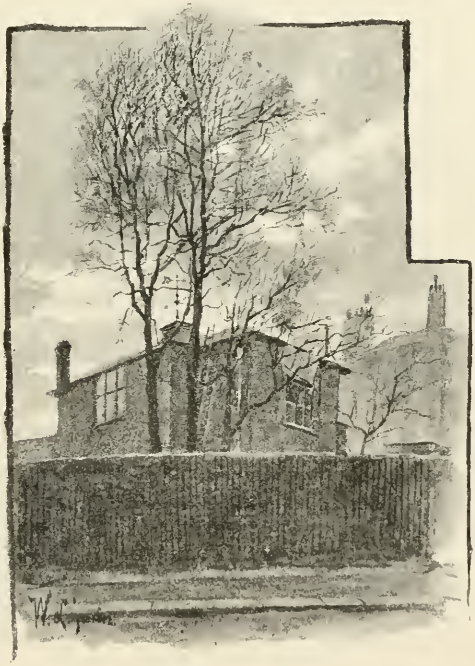


KENSINGTON STATION, HIGH STREET—NIGHT SCENE.

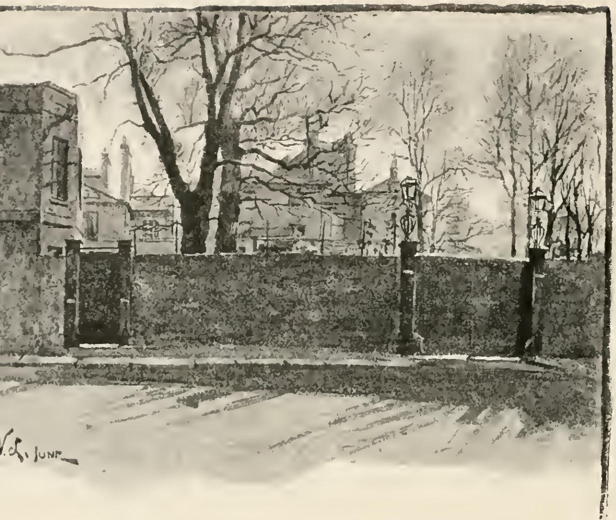

BUTE HOUSE (FROM THE ROAD).

sion of Mr. Hall of Kensington Square. It is now vested in the devisees of Mr. G. Wright, and the present possessor for life is W. Wright Baker, Esq." This was in 1820.

The Terrace is the last row of houses before we reach the great shops and the railway station. Here, in a house then numbered 4, died in 1864 John Leech, the famous artist, worried to death, it was said, by organ-grinders. Down Wright's Lane we reach the Crippled Boys' Home in Woolsthorpe House, part of which is old, and the absurdly named Cheniston Gardens, on the site of the very pretty ivy-covered Abingdon House, which has not long disappeared. A little farther along the winding lane we come to the workhouse, and end with Marloes Road, which opens into Cromwell Road.


STUDIO OF BUTE HOUSE.

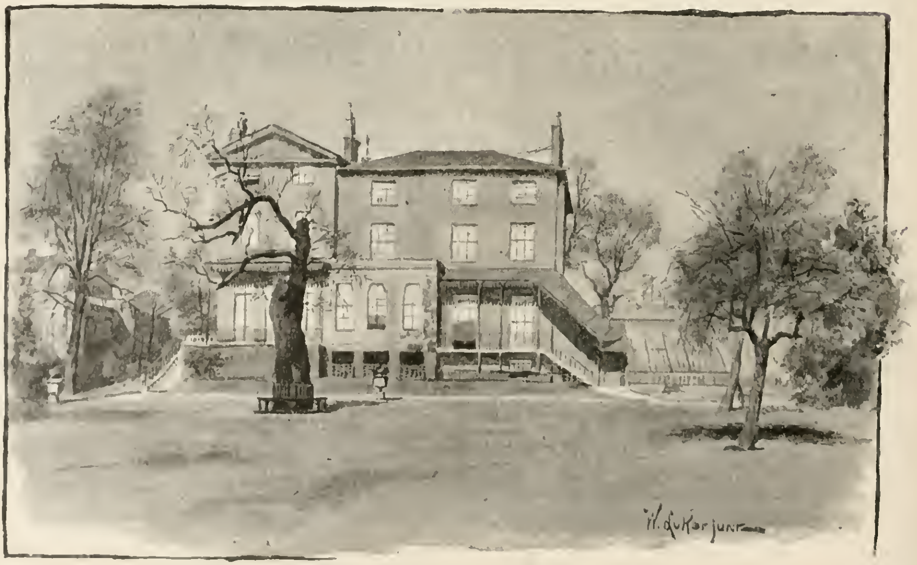
Returning to the High Street, we may note that where the railway station



ARGYLL LODGE.

is now, William Cobbett lived for some years. We may turn to the northward by any of the numerous roads, once Holland Park is passed, which lead up Campden Hill.

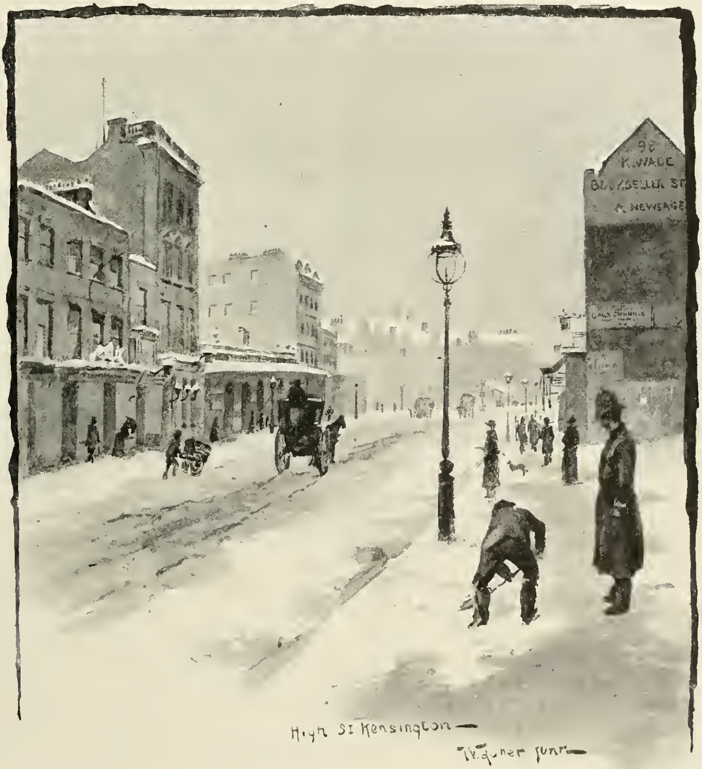
Of these the prettiest is, of course, Lord Holland's Lane, which goes over the top of the hill, close past the house, and skirts the park till the Uxbridge Road is reached. It is full of fine old trees, and the park paling on the left helps to do away with the effect of the backs of the

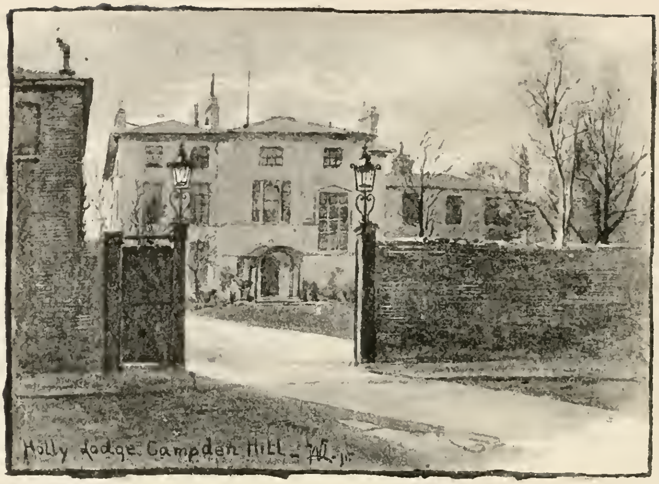

W. Luker junr.

BUTE HOUSE (FROM THE GARDEN).

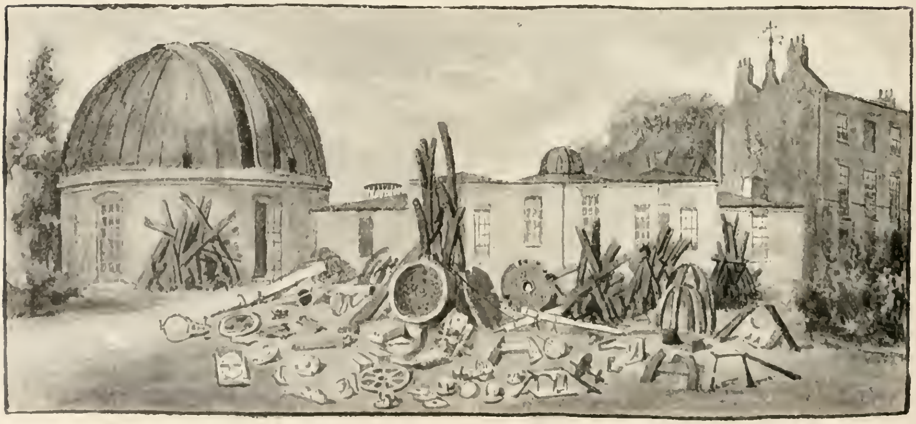
houses in Phillimore Gardens on the right. Farther on, passing the gardens of Argyll Lodge, Moray Lodge, and Aubrey House, there are palings on both sides.

Leading out of Lord Holland's Lane on the right or eastern side, just as the top of the hill is attained, we reach a road locally known as Nightingale Lane. Here a considerable number of handsome villa residences are tenanted by people of such exalted rank that the district used to be called by the neighbours "the Dukeries." Two dukes still inhabit houses here, the Duke of Rutland has Bute House, and the Duke of Argyll, Argyll Lodge: but the most interesting is Holly Lodge (Mrs. Winkworth), in which Lord Macaulay spent his declining years, and where he died, 28th December 1859. Like the other villas here, Holly Lodge has an extensive





garden and lawn sloping to the southward to a lane known as the Duchess of Bedford's Walk. Moray Lodge is the residence of Mr. Arthur J. Lewis. Phillimore Gardens, Upper Phillimore Gardens, and other streets and roads are on the Phillimore estate. Those parts of it which touch the high road were built upon by William Phillimore, who died in 1818, and whose father, Robert Phillimore, who died in 1779 (his monument is in the church), had a lease of the land. The first houses were erected just a hundred

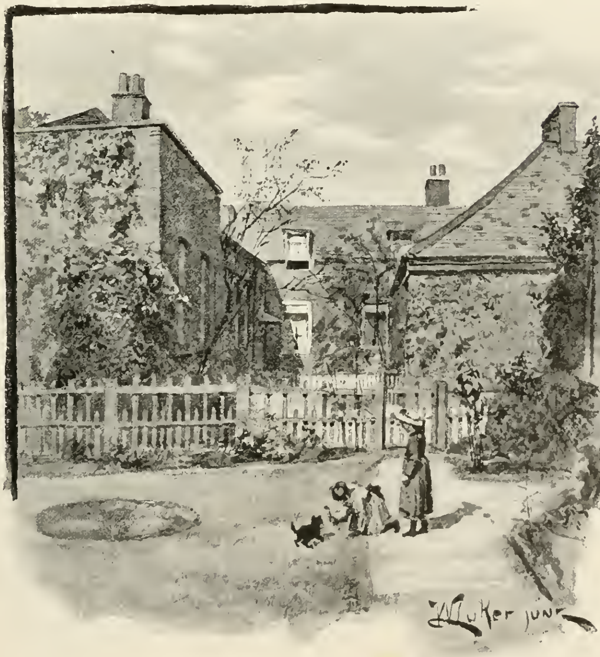


SIR JAMES SOUTH'S EQUATORIAL.

years ago, but vestiges of the farm buildings were still visible in Upper Phillimore Gardens till lately. The present family is, or was lately, represented by Captain William Brough Phillimore of Kendalls, Herts, the great-great-grandson of Robert, the grandson of John Fenimore or Phillimore, of Cam, in Gloucestershire, who died in 1711. In Faulkner's time Sir David Wilkie lived in Lower Phillimore Place, having come to reside in Kensington in 1811, the year he was made an academician. Here he painted "Distraining for Rent," now in the National Gallery, "The Family Breakfast," "Blindman's Buff," and the "Scottish Wedding." He afterwards removed to Maitland House in Church Street.

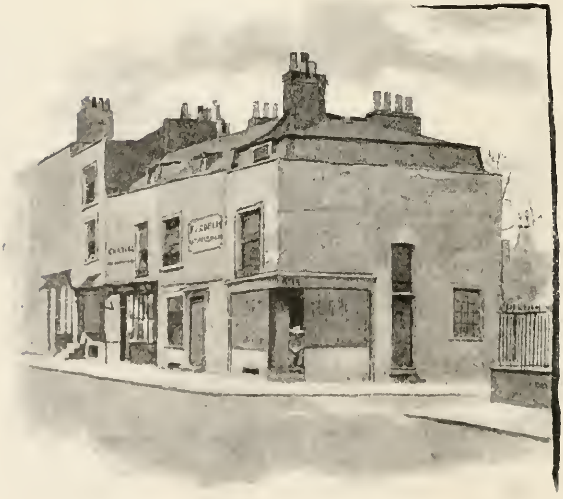
The roads which run parallel with Phillimore Gardens contain little of note until we come to Campden House; but Campden Hill Road, formerly at its northern end called Plough Lane, was only opened for vehicles after the death of Sir James South, the astronomer, and the removal of his house. The observatory stood behind the houses in Observatory Avenue, on a space still vacant, and the house was close by, on the ground now occupied by the roadway of Observatory Gardens, opened in 1886. There are still, in Campden Hill Road, two South Villas and a South Lodge.

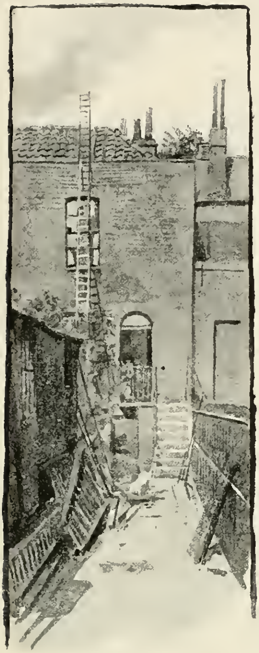
Sir James South was a very eccentric man, and stories of his sayings and doings are still oc-



COTTAGES NORTH OF KENSINGTON PALACE.

casionally heard in Kensington. His lawn was for years strewn with the remnants of an Equatorial, which he described in the title of a lithograph, now very scarce, which I have seen by the kindness of Mr. Merriman :—" A view of the lots into which the same useless twenty feet Equatorial, invented by Troughton and Sims, and cobbled by their assistants, the Rev. R. Sheephanks and Mr. G. B. Airy, was distributed previous to its sale by auction, 8th of July 1839." Some account of the object-glass of the Equatorial, which he presented to the observatory at Dunsink, near Dublin, may be found in Sir Robert Ball's book, *The Story of the Heavens,* p. 12. When roads began to be made over Campden Hill, Sir James South was very angry, and resisted to the best of his ability. As late as 1869 there was only one footway leading from Kensington Road to the Uxbridge Road, west of Church Street, namely, Lord Holland's Lane, mentioned above ; for Campden Hill Road ended where it met Upper Phillimore Gardens, and Sir James South's villa stood between it and Plough Lane. But even the opening of Campden House Road was distasteful to him, and when he was called upon to contribute to the expenses, he flatly refused, until compelled by an action at law. On this occasion it is said that he made his cheque payable to " Messrs. Robbery, Tyranny, and Co., or order." He was distinguished as an astrometer, and greatly feared the vibration caused by the underground railway would prevent observations on Campden Hill, which, in fact, is the case. He foretold the discovery of a satellite


SILVER STREET.

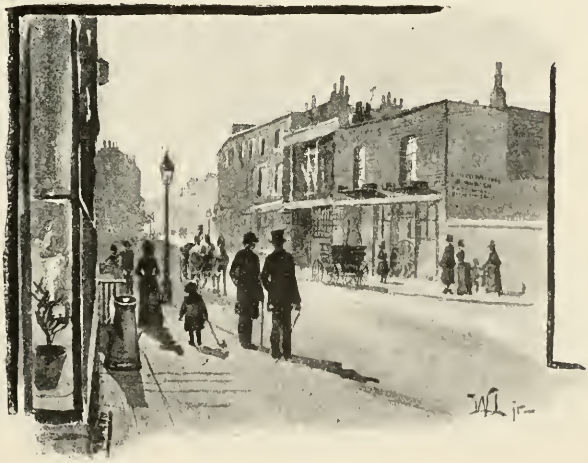


IN THE MALL.

to Mars, though he never actually saw it. He so passionately loved his home that it passed into a proverb among his friends as his favourite exclamation, "Thank God! I'm back in Kensington."

Sir James South was born in 1785, and at first practised as a physician in Southwark, studying astronomy in his leisure moments. He was one of the founders of the Royal Astronomical Society, and was knighted by William IV. at the instance of the Duke of Wellington as a recognition of the value of his labours on the Nautical Almanack. He died at Campden Hill 19th October 1867.

The alterations in Church Street have been very great even in the past five years. Forty years ago the road was narrow and winding until it joined Silver Street; but except at the church and at Wiple Place, built in 1792, there were no rows of houses on the right or east side, and the street wound up the hill past the barracks (there being no passage into Kensington Gardens), Maitland House, York House, the Vicarage (which was at a turn in the road, so that the front looked down towards the church), a large house, now a Roman Catholic orphanage, Wiple

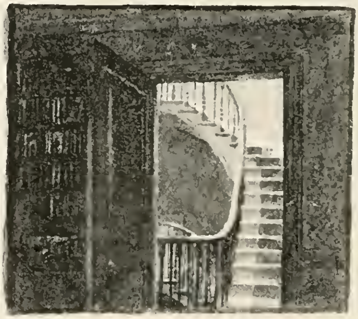


A SMITH'S SHOP IN SILVER STREET.

KITCHEN, THE MALL.

Place, Wiple Cottage (where is now Melon Place), and Sheffield House (which stood in its own grounds as York House stands now). York House, by the way, was for some years the residence of the Princess Sophia, one of the daughters of George III. She died here 27th May 1848.

At 15A Church Street, Miss Jean Ingelow, the poet and novelist, was living in 1863. James Mill, the father of John Stuart Mill, lived at Maitland House.



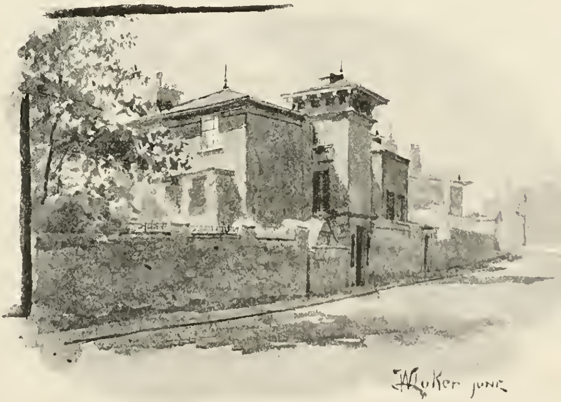
LIBRARY, THE MALL.

Campden House has already been noticed; and there is now no other trace of antiquity left on Campden Hill, except Bullingham House, also described in a former chapter. The new vicarage was improved and partly remodelled in 1886, but is still by no means a beautiful building. It stands considerably to the east of the old house, which was pulled down in 1877, and the very site wholly obliterated by the new road.

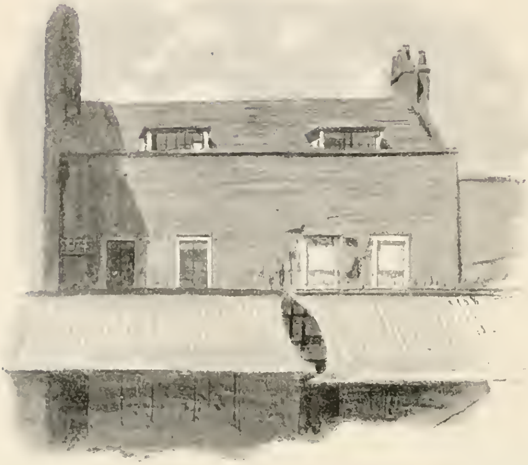
DINING ROOM, THE MALL.

Until the turnpikes in Kensington were all abolished and the gates removed in 1864, the passenger going northward by Church Street when he had entered Silver Street, its continuation towards Notting Hill, found himself facing the toll bar at Campden Street. There are still some remains at this corner of the gate-keeper's lodge. A little farther on is The Mall, which opens on the right, and first joining a street of new houses named Palace Gardens Terrace, it turns northward and reaches High Street, Notting Hill. In the Mall, as it appears now, there are two or three dilapidated cottages, rapidly disappearing; but a few years ago Annis Place, Mall Mews, Lucerne Mews, Rabbit Row, and Barker's Buildings, were rather picturesque with their red-tiled roofs and green vines. Two or three superior houses have also given way to the modern builder. Among them was the residence of the Callcotts, a family of which several members were more or less distinguished, especially Dr. Callcott the glee-writer, Sir Augustus Callcott the painter, and William Hutchins Callcott, who inherited his father's musical abilities. There are still many inhabitants of Kensington who remember the last named. He latterly resided in Campden Hill Road, where he died in 1882.

The first of the family in Kensington is said to have been a builder, some say no more than a bricklayer, engaged on the works at the palace. He married Charlotte Wall, by whom, who was his second wife, he had among other children two sons who distinguished themselves in different walks of art. The elder—who was thirteen years older than his brother—took to music, and was the composer of many well-known songs and glees. He was John Wall Callcott, made a Doctor of Music of the University of Oxford in 1800, and is not to be confounded, as Leigh Hunt confounds him, with his son, William Hutchins Callcott. Leigh Hunt's mention of him is indeed so misleading that, as it appears in all editions of the *Old Court Suburb*, it should be the more clearly exposed. He says, after a brief notice of Sir Augustus, that he

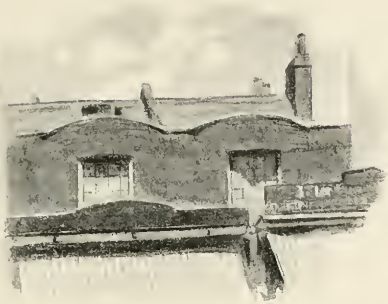


HORNTON COTTAGE.



MONTPELIER HOUSE, 1776.

was preceded to the grave by his brother "William Callcott, a learned and interesting musician, celebrated for his composition of glees. He was the author of the pathetic composition 'It was a Friar of Orders Gray,'" and so on. Now William Callcott survived his uncle, Sir Augustus, some thirty years; and the "pathetic" character of the song mentioned has not been detected by any one but Hunt. John Wall Callcott died in 1821, aged 61, and was buried in the churchyard of Kensington. His brother, the painter, Sir Augustus Wall Callcott, R.A., was born in 1779, was a choir boy in early life, and was always devoted to music, but took to painting as a profession. He was knighted by Queen Victoria soon after her accession, and dying in 1844 was buried at Kensal Green. His wife is even better remembered. She was Maria, daughter of Admiral George Dundas, and married first a Captain Graham, R.N., with whom she saw many foreign countries and wrote pleasantly about them. In 1827, being a widow, she married Callcott, and after a long period of illness died before him in 1842 "at Kensington Gravel Pits," namely, in the house in the Mall, and was buried at Kensal Green. She was the author of a book almost as well known in the schoolroom as *Mangnall's Questions,* namely, *Little Arthur's History of England.* The House at the Mall stood well back from the road, and had close behind it to the east the red-brick wall of the palace garden. It was built in 1810, and pulled down and the materials and site sold in 1871.

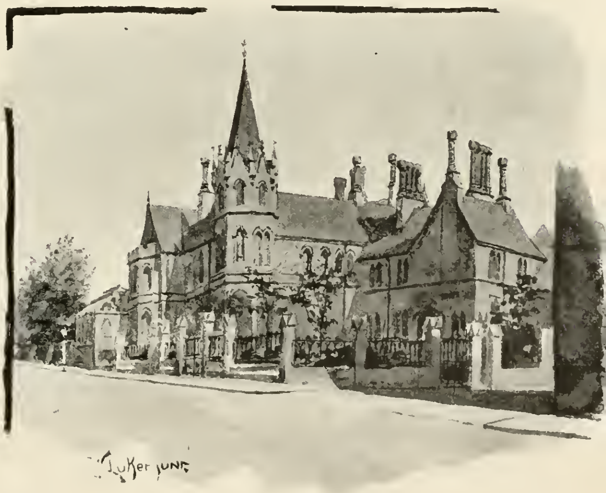


NOS. 58 AND 60 HIGH STREET, NOTTING HILL GATE.

The Mall now contains some labourers' dwellings erected by Sir Morton Peto, and leads to Palace Gardens Terrace.

Before we leave the southern side of Campden Hill, Hornton Street must be noticed. The origin of the name I have not been able to ascertain. Here, in the last house at the northern end, long lived Thomas Frognall Dibdin, D.D., the bibliographer. He was incumbent of St. Mary's, Bryanston Square; but is chiefly remembered for his bibliomania, and for being the son of that famous seaman, Captain Thomas Dibdin, on whose death Charles Dibdin, his brother, wrote and composed "Tom Bowling."

The large house opposite Hornton Street was recently built by a gentleman named Abbott, and is appropriately named "The Abbey." Another house faces Hornton Street now called "The Red House," and considerably added to in an incongruous fashion; for originally though only a stucco villa it had some architectural pretensions, being in the style described by Vitruvius as Etruscan Doric, the same style as that in which Inigo Jones designed the church of St. Paul, Covent Garden. Near to

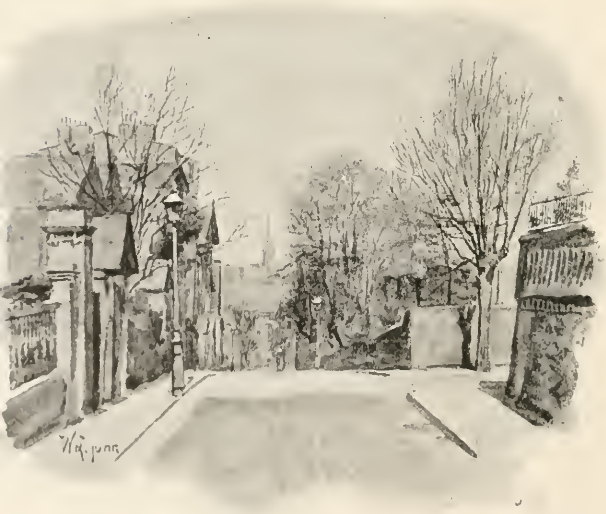


THE ABBEY, CAMPDEN HILL ROAD.

the Red House is Niddry Lodge, where the late amiable and accomplished Campbell of Islay lived for many years.

Notting Hill may by some be described as the northern side of Campden Hill: by others as that part of Kensington parish which lies to the north of the Uxbridge Road. Leigh Hunt says of the Gravel Pits that they form "a kind of second Kensington High Street, being to the northern boundary line of the suburb in the Uxbridge Road what the High Street, commonly so called, is to Kensington Proper in the road to Hammersmith. Since the disappearance of the actual gravel-pits their name seems to have been superseded, of late years, by the joint influence of the new streets on Notting Hill and in Bayswater—all this portion of Kensington to the west of the turnpike being now addressed, we believe, post-officially, as Notting Hill; and all of it, to the east of the turnpike, being understood, in like manner, to belong to Bayswater."

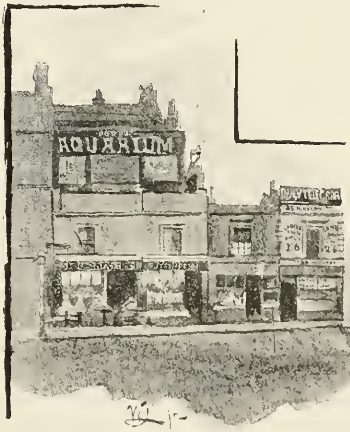
Leigh Hunt—his book is undated—must have written this passage before turnpikes were abolished in our parish, which was in 1864, and we can now distinguish more clearly between Paddington and Kensington. High Street, Notting Hill Gate, is a well-defined thoroughfare, and all the northern parts of Kensington which lie beyond it would be wrongly described as Bayswater. They are one and all so new that we need not delay long over them: the geography of the country they cover has been already examined, and we may briefly divide the district into



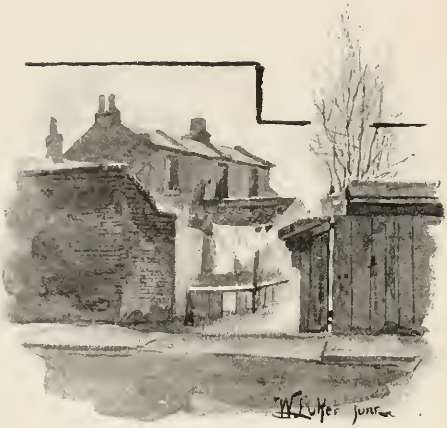
AUBREY ROAD.

three parts. First, there is the Norland division, an important portion of the old manor of Notting Barns. Secondly, there is the so-called Kensington Park division, which lies round the hill on which St. John's Church stands, and stretches eastward towards Westbourne Grove in Paddington. Thirdly, there is a new quarter which is rapidly springing up on the slope toward Kensal Green, past the "North Pole," so long an Ultima Thule in this direction, and far beyond Portobello Farm. All three formed part of the Notting Barns manor, the manor-house of which, if there is anything in names, must have been that marked on maps less than forty years old as adjoining Notting Hill Square on one side and Holland Park on the other, and identical with Aubrey House, already described. That the manor-house of this extensive northern district should have been so far south and so distant from the greater part of the estate may be accounted for by the uninhabited state of Notting Hill before the beginning of the century and the insecurity of a more lonely situation. Down to the time of Queen Elizabeth, and long after, a great part of these northern districts was covered with wood, or else open heath and "scrubs."

Norland House is mentioned by Faulkner as "the residence of C. Drummond, Esq., the banker." He also tells us of "Gallows Close," on the left of the high road, close to Shepherd's Bush. This, I think, would be at the northern extremity of Addison Road, now built over. Two men were hanged here, about 1748, for one of the highway robberies so common in this neighbourhood at the time. "In Roque's map the gallows are delineated as still standing," says Faulkner. If so, they were beyond the parish boundaries, as we can only make them out much nearer Shepherd's Bush,



SITE OF NOTTING HILL GATE.

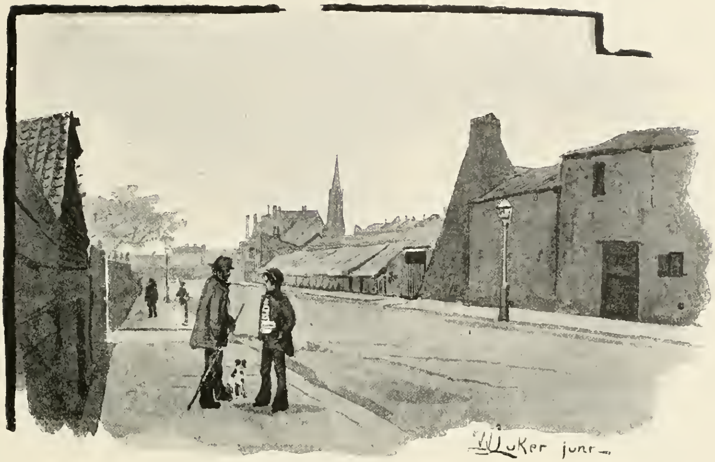


COTTAGES NEAR THE POTTERIES.

and some way to the westward of the Creek. Also, a careful examination shows that three, not two, malefactors hung on the gibbets, which are apparently set up at the eastern corner of the Green, the roads passing on either side of them, so that these cannot be the gibbets of Gallows "Close," for a close is a field and these are on the open common. It follows that if both Roque and Faulkner are right another set of gallows stood within the Kensington boundary. Such objects were probably very common at conspicuous corners in the neighbourhood of London a century ago.

On the northern side of the road was, and indeed is, the notorious district known as The Potteries. A good many relics of old houses of a picturesque character may be found here; but the picturesqueness is passing away with the squalor, and the influence of such fine places as Royal Crescent and Norland Square, which is on the site of Mr. Drummond's house, is asserting itself. I should not omit to mention the efforts which have been made in this neighbourhood by the benevolence of a band of self-sacrificing ladies, who, in the "Lily," have provided the means of culture and rational recreation for the inhabitants, most of whom are employed in the laundries and brick-fields with which the Norland district abounds.

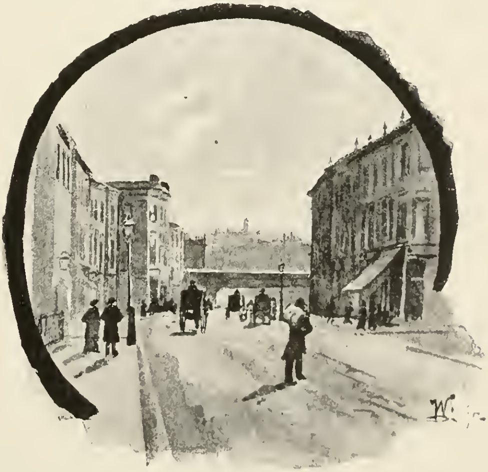
Notting Barns Farm is a long way north, and practically does not exist now, much of the land being built over. There are public-house signs and street names to commemorate the supposed manorial residence and the Barn which stood near. That Aubrey House was, however far off, the real and original manor-house is, I think, plain from a variety of reasons too long to enumerate; but from which one may be selected as typical.


W. Luker junr.

ROAD THROUGH THE POTTERIES.

The boundary of the parochial "ward of St. John Notting Hill and St. James Norlands" expressly turns southward, over the top of Campden Hill, in order to include Aubrey House and the land adjacent with the main body of the manor on the other or northern side of the Uxbridge Road.

The second division of this great district lies round St. John's Church. An "Old Inhabitant" who wrote some recollections of this parish and Paddington, which were printed for a bazaar at the *Paddington Mercury* office without a date, but probably about 1882, says, "The first time I heard of Notting Hill was many years since. I was asked to sign a petition, the prayer of which pleaded for parliamentary interference to stop the action of the proprietors of the Hippodrome at Notting Hill from running horses on



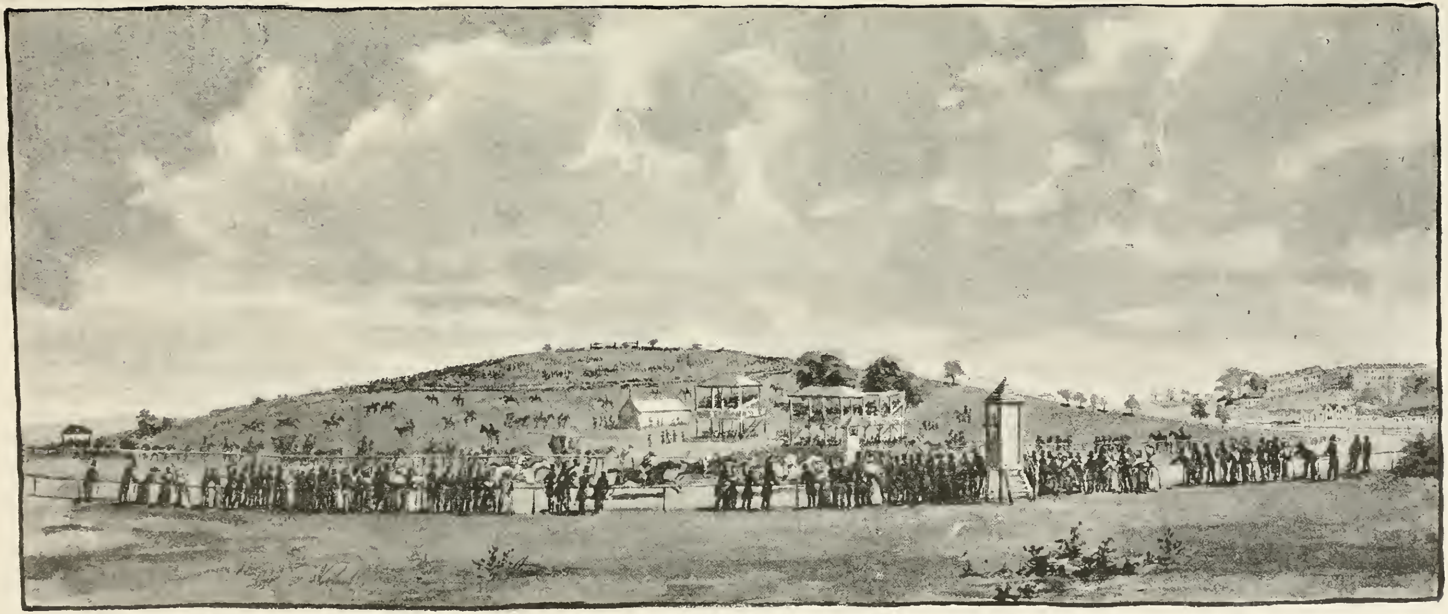
PORTOBELLO ROAD.

Sundays. I have since heard that races were not run upon that day, but horses were tried as a preliminary step to the races during the week.

"In 1844, when I first became acquainted with the neighbourhood, I inquired what had become of the racecourse and was shown an open country,—the place now occupied by St. John's Church, Notting Hill, being the spot on which the grand stand had been erected, and the course, as nearly as I can describe it, is now covered by Clarendon Road, Cornwall Road, Portobello Road, Horbury Terrace, and Ladbroke Square. I found that the inhabitants had insisted upon a right-of-way across the grounds, and taking the law into their own hands, with hatchets and saws had removed the barriers and thus by maintaining their right to cross the ground when they pleased caused the racing men to abandon it."

As a fact, "the racing men" made a strong fight before they gave up the Hippodrome. Petitions were got up on each side, and an Act of Parliament was demanded shutting up the public right-of-way. The extent of this open ground may be gathered from the extract above. A map in Mr. Merriman's collection shows that Lord Holland's Lane was continued northward across the Uxbridge Road, along a line not quite so straight as Ladbroke Road, that it went right over the knoll on which St. John's Church now stands, which was a grassy mound within the ring of the racecourse, and on, bending a little to the west, past Notting Barns Farm to the Harrow Road at the extreme corner of the parish near Kensal Green. The chief entrance to the Hippodrome was at the junction of Kensington Park Road and Ladbroke Road, opposite the present Notting Hill Gate Railway Station. Portobello Road marked its eastern boundary; and at that time opened directly from the High Street, where is now Devonshire Terrace. Our "Old Inhabitant" says that "at this point commenced a country lane leading partly between hedges and afterwards through fields to Kensal Green."

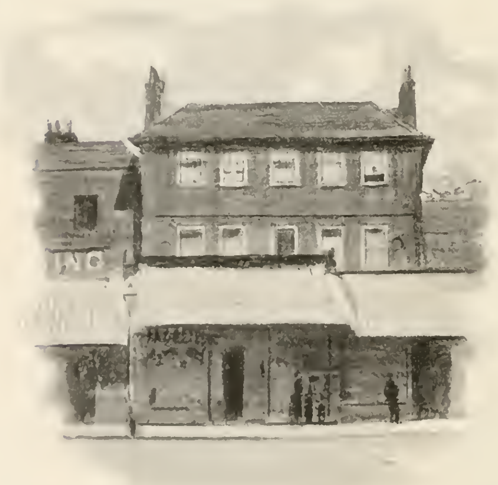
He adds, "It was a most delightful walk; from certain portions of the lane charming views could be obtained. This



THE HIPPODROME.

can hardly be understood by the present inhabitants ; it will be made more clear if I say that looking from the back of either mansion I have mentioned from Stormont House to Portobello Lane the whole country was open, and only a few farms here and there. Hampstead, on the north, was visible, and from the hill by the side of Porto Bello Farm, then occupied by Mr. Wise ; on the east, London ; and on the north-west, Harrow on the Hill were clearly visible. No wonder that this pleasant lane was the favourite walk not only of the inhabitants of Notting Hill but also of many from the city. From west to north, from north to east, scarcely a house was to be seen. Cornfields and meadowland on every side, the quiet only broken by the occasional passing of a train on the Great Western Railway at Kensal Green. It seems almost impossible to realise the fact, but it is a fact, that during this thirty-eight years the thousands of houses which are now to be seen from Ealing to Hampstead, and Hampstead to Edgware Road, have been built."

The Hippodrome flourished as a racecourse only from 1837 until 1841. The deep clay of Notting Hill was unsuited for running on except at certain seasons, and, though some of the ground still remained open as lately as thirty years ago, it was steadily eaten into by the builder, until now only Ladbroke Square, or Kensington Park as it is called, and a few gardens on the slope to the westward, remain of the open space.



NOS. 50 AND 52 HIGH STREET, NOTTING HILL GATE.

The following paragraphs from Faulkner describe this district as it was in his time (1820):—

"KENSINGTON GRAVEL PITS received its name from the gravel-pits lying between it and the town of Kensington. The principal street runs along the North high road for about three furlongs.

"This village enjoys an excellent air, and beautiful prospects on the North, and lying in the direct road for Uxbridge and Oxford, it is enlivened every hour by the passage of mail coaches, stages, and waggons. High-row, on the eastern side of the road, leading from the town to the gravel-pits, is a very pleasant row of houses, built, in part, on ground belonging to Dulwich College; near which is a large pond, now filling up; and in the surrounding buildings, called the Mall, reside Dr. Calcott, Mus. D., and R. W. Calcott, Esq., R.A., the eminent landscape painter.

"In Greyhound-row, fronting the road, are the Gravel Pit almshouses. . . .

"Near the turnpike is Porto Bello Lane, leading to the farm so called, which was the property of Mr. A. Adams, the builder, at the time that Porto Bello was captured. This is one of the most rural and pleasant walks in the summer, in the vicinity of London, leading to the high bridge over the Paddington Canal, south of the Harrow Road, which is the northern boundary of this parish. At Kensal Green is a very ancient public-house, known by the name of the Plough, which has been built upwards of three hundred years; the timber and joists, being of oak, are still in good preservation.

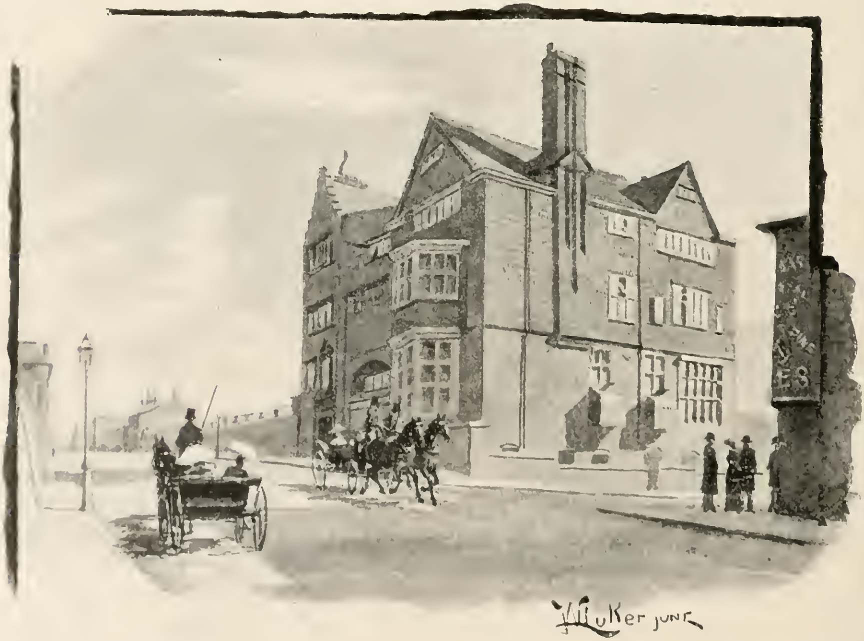
"Morland, the celebrated painter, was much pleased with this sequestered place, and spent much of his time in this house, towards the close of his life; surrounded by those rustic scenes which his pencil has so faithfully and ably delineated.

"Notting Hill Farm was the residence of the late Mr. John Hall. A public road leads through this farm yard, to the sister-hill of Holland House, which being of great height, and entirely free from wood, commands a most lovely and enchanting view over the adjacent country.

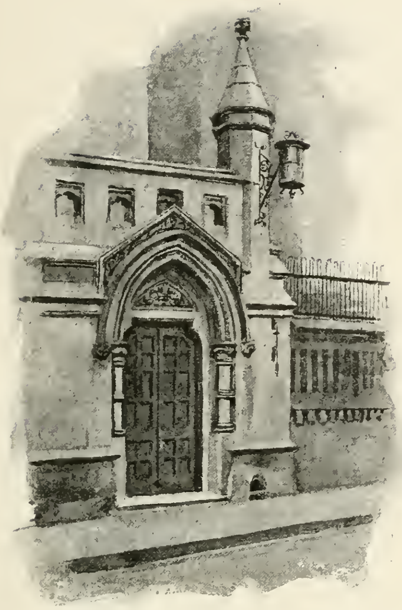
"The valley on the north is laid down with grass, and the whole of the district appears to have undergone but little alteration, in respect to culture and division of the land, for several ages; although the distance from London is scarcely three miles, yet the traveller may imagine himself to be embosomed in the most sequestered part of the country, and nothing is heard but the notes of the lark, the linnet, or the nightingale. . . .

"In the midst of these meadows stands the manor-house of Knotting Barns, now occupied by William Smith, Esq., of Hammersmith; it is an ancient brick building, surrounded by spacious barns, and out-houses; the public road to Kensal Green passes through the farm yard."

This public road is now represented very nearly by Latimer Road, along the course of which an old house or wall or garden may still be found. Beyond, towards the cemetery, is the third district of North Kensington. Of it I have nothing to say more than has been said already, but our Old Inhabitant, above quoted, draws a pathetic picture of the state of the people who dwelt here a very few years ago. At the end of Pottery Lane was "a colony of pig-keepers. Every house here had a colony of the porcine family in its yard. A number of carts filled with tubs passed daily to London, gathering refuse from hotels and mansions to feed the large families of pigs gathered here. It was not a savoury place, and at the time of the cholera the inhabitants suffered severely. Rough-looking people they appeared, but upon closer acquaintance it was seen they looked more uncouth than they really were. The only religious or secular education the people and children received was provided by the members of the Baptist Chapel at Silver Street and the congregation at Hornton Street. Their place of meeting for



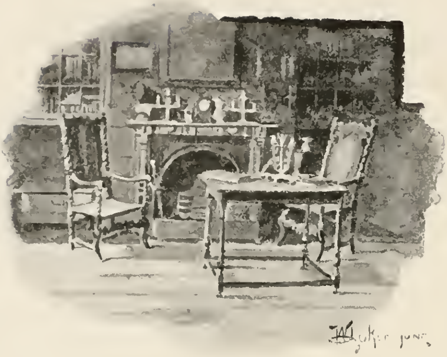
MR. G. H. BOUGHTON'S HOUSE.



TOWER CRESSY—DOORWAY.

some years was in an unfinished house, with its unplastered walls on two floors not divided into separate rooms. Their teachers were poor, but they had love to God in their hearts, and proved it by their love to their neighbours. Their names, unrecorded on earth, will never be forgotten by Him who said, 'Inasmuch as ye did it to the least of these my brethren, ye did it to Me.' Beyond this colony I discovered another in Latimer Road, where there was no Sabbath teaching or secular education. In looking back I feel grateful to God for the numbers I was enabled to gather together on the Sabbath, both of adults and children, and also for the many children who received instruction in a day-school I established. . . . But what a place it was when I first discovered it—comparatively out of the world,—a rough road, cut across the field, the only approach, brick-fields and pits on either side making it dangerous to leave on dark nights. A safe place for many people who did not wish everybody to know what they were doing. I am afraid that there were more *spirits* about there than there were either bodies or bottles to contain. I could tell a great deal about Latimer Road in 1844 to

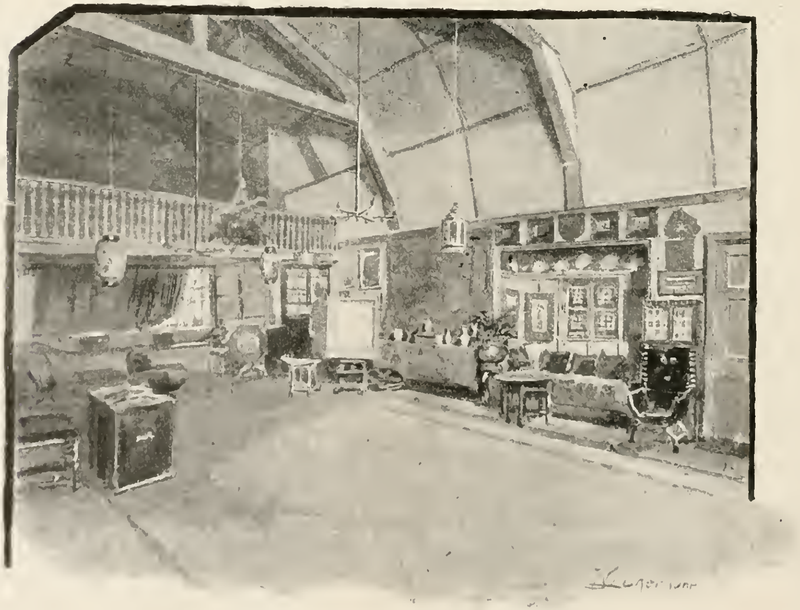
IN NOTTING HILL SQUARE.



IN NOTTING HILL GROVE.

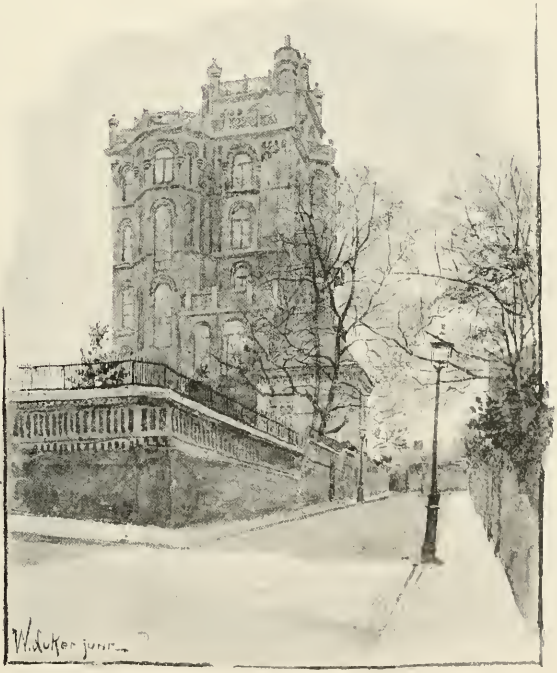
1850, but other Pharaohs have arisen there who know not Joseph, and they are doing a good work in that which, by the opening of a railway station, has become a well-known place."

A very wretched quarter was also close to the High Street. It was called Campden Place, and was a perfect rookery of houses, overcrowded and filthy. It comprised two side streets, Pitt's Cottages and Anderson's Cottages, in all some fifty separate houses of the poorest description, yet almost over-looked by Stormont House, the Hermitage, and Linden Grove, and close to the entrance of Kensington Palace. The great artist, Mulready, lived in the Grove. The growth of Campden



MR. GEO. H. BOUGHTON'S STUDIO, CAMPDEN HILL.

Place is not easily accounted for; the land belonged to the parochial charities, and was originally bought on 18th June 1651 from Thomas Coppin, Esq., with a sum of forty-five pounds in the hands of the parish trustees, Sir John Thorowgood, and others. Whence that sum of forty-five pounds came no one seems to know, but it was always referred to as "Cromwell's Gift." In 1651 Oliver Cromwell was busy first in Scotland, and afterwards at Worcester, where he defeated Charles II. in September. The gift most probably was made some time before. I have already said something on the subject in noticing Hale House. The Gravel Pits estate, as it was called, consisted of two acres, occupied by Richard Barton. Almshouses were to have been erected on the site, but instead, it was let on lease; the lease came to a minor, Henry White, whose name very frequently appears in the law proceedings that ensued, and in the end nothing seems to have been done. A brewery, the Sun, stood on the land at the beginning of this century, but a little later it was let for building, and the wretched cottages, already mentioned, sprang up. In 1868 the parish authorities at length obtained possession; the place was cleared, and the handsome street named "Clanricarde Gardens"

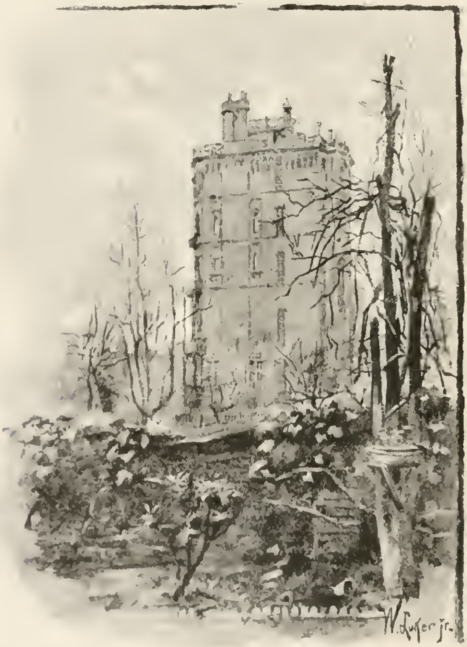

W. Luker junr.

TOWER CRESSY.

was built by Messrs. Goodwin and White on a ninety-nine years' lease. The whole estate, with some shops in High Street, brings in £1042 per annum, according to the parochial accounts.

High Street, Notting Hill Gate, has greatly changed in appearance of late years. "In 1844," says the Old Inhabitant already so often quoted, "there were only two shops in the village above one storey high." Close to the turnpike gate were two parochial institutions, the village pump and the village pound. Close by was Farm Street, now called Farmer Street, and behind the houses a large brick-field, where is now Newcombe Street, at first New Street. On the site now known as Campden Hill Gardens stood Wycombe House, and Mr. Boughton's beautiful residence, West House, had not been built. West House is called after Benjamin West, an American artist, who rose to be President of the Royal Academy.

Notting Hill Square is close to Aubrey House, and the Uxbridge Road, descending to Shepherd's Bush, passes it. The view from the houses which form the southern side of the square is very fine on a clear day, and is partly described in my opening chapter. The view from Tower Cressy (W. Matterson, Esq.), a lofty stuccoed house in Aubrey Road, is simply magnificent. A handsome entrance in stone to this strange residence has been lately built by its present owner. At the other corner of the square, in New Road, is Hill Lodge (W. G. Rawlin-



TOWER CRESSY (ANOTHER VIEW).

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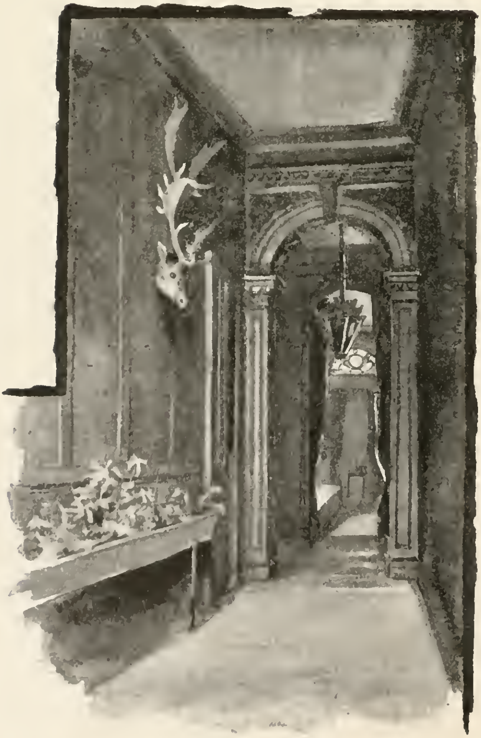

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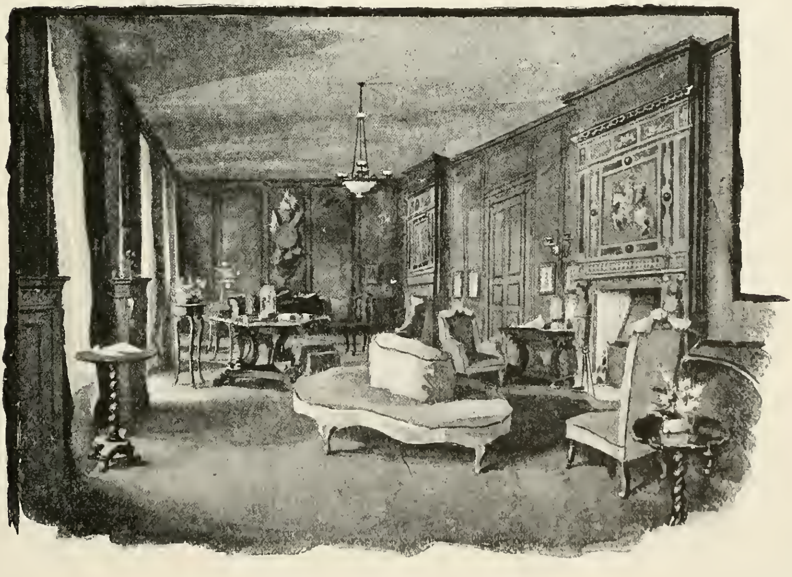

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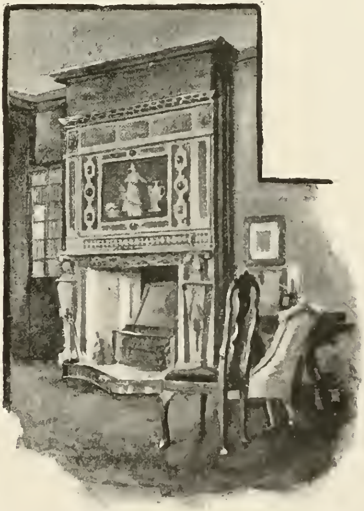

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THE END

NOTE.

IT may be of interest to the descendants of those who subscribed to Faulkner's History of Kensington *in* 1820 *to see their names appended to the following list of subscribers who have honoured my book upon trust with their kind notice. As the new list is to the old in magnitude so is the modern population to the old. But it is worth while to observe that the descendants of some of the subscribers of sixty-eight years ago are in the list of* 1888. *Besides Her Majesty and Members of the Royal Family, there may be many more than I can identify. One example is, I think, unique. In* 1820, "*Mr. John Merriman, Young Street,*" *is a subscriber. In* 1888 *we find* "*John J. Merriman,* 45, *Kensington Square,*" *which is almost the same name, the house also being really the same.*

In the old list are to be found some very remarkable names. John Britton, the great antiquary, dates from Tavistock Place, and the Rev. C. P. Burney *from Greenwich. The Right Hon. George Canning, M.P., is at Gloucester Lodge. The Rev. T. F. Dibdin, the bibliographer, lived in Hornton Street; he was the son, and namesake, of Thomas Dibdin, whom his brother Charles immortalised as "Tom Bowling," in the sweetest of nautical songs. Lord Ennismore was at Kensington Gore, "James Gunter, Esq.," at Earl's Court, "Edward Goulburn, Esq.," in Phillimore Place, and Sir Richard Colt Hoare is entered without any address. The great topographers, Samuel Lysons, "Keeper of His Majesty's Records in the Tower," and his brother, the Rev. Daniel Lysons, figure in their place. "Edward Orme, Esq., Bayswater," was the builder of Orme's Square, and had been a successful printseller in Bond Street. The Rev. Thomas Rennell was vicar of the parish. John Soane, R.A., gives his address in Lincoln's Inn Fields, where is now the Soane Museum. We read near the end the honoured name of "William Wilberforce, Esq., M.P., Kensington Gore."*

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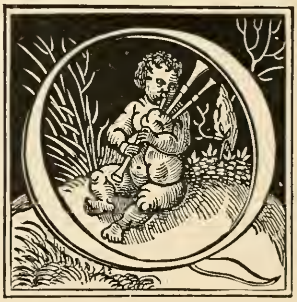

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